

**Stones River Classic
Judging Panel 2025
Riverdale High School
October 18, 2025**

David Aydelott – Music Ensemble/Music Effect

David Aydelott is a recently retired band director in Tennessee. Mr. Aydelott taught high school bands in Tennessee at Lexington, John Overton, Ravenwood, Franklin, and Siegel for 29 years. Additionally, he was the Director of Fine Arts in the Williamson County Tennessee School District for two years. A recipient of the NBA's Certificate of Merit and the Citation of Excellence, Mr. Aydelott is an active clinician and arranger and has served as an adjudicator for DCI and BOA. Music for All named David Aydelott to the "Forty for Forty." In December 2014, the John Philip Sousa Foundation named Mr. Aydelott a Laureate of the Bandworld "Legion of Honor." Mr. Aydelott has held leadership positions in professional music education associations and served two years as a member of the Education Council for the Frist Art Museum in Nashville, Tennessee. He and his wife Renee have two children, Katherine and Meredith.

Rick Murphy – Music Effect/Music Ensemble

Born Richard Anthony Murphy on December 12, 1957 in Columbia, Tennessee, "Rick" is the fourth of six children born to Bill and Mary Murphy. Rick attended Riverside Elementary School and when he was young, his family thought he'd end up being an architect because he loved to draw house plans and then build them out of Legos, proudly displaying them. Rick showed an early aptitude for music and one of his early influences was Diana Ruth (Polk), his piano teacher. He started playing clarinet in 7th grade at Whitthorne Junior High, where his band directors were Tom Tucker and Bill Hull, both T.B.A. Hall of Fame members.

Rick went on to be a member of the Columbia Central High Marching Band and Symphonic Bands and while attending Columbia Central, he studied clarinet with Jo Ann Hood and Tom Tucker. His favorite composer during his high school days was Beethoven. Rick was a member of the Tennessee All State Band and the Middle Tennessee Clinic Bands. Upon graduating in 1975 from Central High School, he attended MTSU on a band and orchestra scholarship where he studied clarinet with Dr. John Duke.

During his undergraduate years at MTSU, he worked in summer band camps with McGavock directors Ken Hull (TBA Hall of Fame), Randy Rawlings and his mentor, Brad Kinney (TBA Hall of Fame) and John Overton directors Rodney Webb (TBA Hall of Fame) and Jo Ann Hood (TBA Hall of Fame)

Upon graduation from MTSU, he worked two years in Wakulla County, Florida. In 1981, Jo Ann Hood called him to replace her at Hillwood High School in Nashville, where he and Charles Marston transformed Hillwood into a band worthy of competing with first rate bands like McGavock and John Overton. Howard Baltimore, long-time principal at McGavock asked Murphy to come to McGavock in 1985, where he worked with Larry Baskin for one year. Jeff Beckman joined Murphy at McGavock in 1986 and together, they created one of the legendary marching band programs in the country. Murphy left McGavock in

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1990 to study and work on his Masters Degree at MTSU as a graduate teaching assistant. After finishing his studies, Joseph T. Smith (TBA Hall of Fame), asked Rick to apply for the Assistant Director of Bands position. Rick stayed at MTSU for three years and then returned to Metro Nashville, where he was the director at Antioch High School from 1994 – 1996.

Rick was asked to return to MTSU in 1996 and was appointed assistant professor of music and Director of Bands. Rick served as MTSU's Band Director for seven years and during this time, he and Terry Jolly guided the MTSU *Band of Blue* through a period of tremendous growth. Additionally, he was conductor of the Middle Tennessee Chamber Winds, a professional chamber music ensemble, and was also co-conductor of the Tennessee Valley Winds, an adult community band.

Rick returned to Metro Nashville and worked with Jo Ann Hood at John Overton for one year. He then returned to McGavock High School in 2003 where he and Jeff Beckman won two more Contest of Champion titles in 2003 and 2004. Since 2004, Rick has been the Director of Bands at his alma mater, Columbia Central High School.

Rick Murphy is a research associate and contributing writer to the GIA publication *Teaching Music through Performance in Band* and *Teaching Music through Performance in Beginning Band*. He has served on the faculty of Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music as a visiting conductor, was conductor of the Nashville Youth Repertory Orchestra, has been awarded five Citations of Excellence and seven Certificates of Merit for Marching Excellence for his contributions to the profession by the National Band Association, was named an Outstanding Tennessee Educator by the Governor's School for the Arts, is an elected member of *Pi Kappa Lambda* National Honor Society, and has been inducted into the Middle Tennessee State University *Band of Blue* Hall of Fame.

He conducted concerts at the TMEA Convention on three separate occasions with his concert bands from McGavock, John Overton, and MTSU.

He holds membership in the National Band Association, College Band Director's National Association, American School Band Directors Association, National Association for Music Education, Tennessee Bandmasters Association, Tennessee Music Educators Association, Middle Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association, *Phi Mu Alpha* Sinfonia Fraternity, a professional music fraternity, and is an elected member of *Phi Beta Mu* National School Bandmasters Fraternity. Rick is a devoted father and an avid tennis and racquetball player.

Spanning three decades, perhaps Rick Murphy's most important legacy to the band directing profession are the many students he has taught who call him their mentor and have gone on to be band directors themselves.

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J.R. Baker – Visual Ensemble

J.R. Baker is the Fine Arts Coordinator for Robertson County Schools, where he works closely with the district's visual and performing arts teachers to support and advocate for arts education.

He began his career in 2002 as a band director at East Robertson Junior/Senior High School and later served as Director of Bands at White House Heritage High School from 2007 to 2021. During his time there, he helped design the school's fine arts facilities and expanded the band program, providing opportunities for students to perform in concert and marching settings, including state-level events. As a district Teacher Leader, he also coordinated district-wide music events and professional development for teachers, which ultimately contributed to the creation of the Fine Arts Coordinator role he now holds.

A native of Greenbrier, Tennessee, Mr. Baker earned a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the University of Tennessee at Martin and a Master of Music Education from Austin Peay State University. He has been recognized as a Robertson County "Making a Difference" Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Baker is actively involved in professional music organizations, including serving as President-Elect of the Tennessee Music Education Association and Past-President of the Tennessee Bandmasters Association. He also served in leadership roles with MTSBOA, including a tenure as President. He lives in White House, Tennessee, with his wife, Mitzi, and their three daughters.

Kip Crowder - Percussion

Kip Crowder has worked in the Barren County School system since 1999 and has served as the high school band director since 2003. Prior to his high school appointment, Kip was the general music teacher and assistant band director at Barren County Middle School. In addition to his classroom duties, Dr. Crowder conducts the BCHS Marching Band, Pep Band as well as the High School and Middle School Percussion Ensembles. Under his direction, the Barren County Ensembles have received consistent distinguished ratings at both the State and District level concert band and solo and ensemble festivals. The competitive marching band has placed in finals at the Contest of Champions for three consecutive years and has held the Kentucky Governors Cup for four years. The BCHS Concert Band has placed first at 5 Music in the Parks Festivals and was named the 2010 Grand National Champion of the All-Star Music Festival in Florida for posting the highest score in 12 consecutive weekends of competition.

Dr. Crowder holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Middle Tennessee State University, a Masters degree in Music Education and a Doctor of the Musical Arts degree from the University of Kentucky. During his undergraduate career, Kip studied applied percussion with Professor Lalo Davila and instrumental music with Professors Joseph T.

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Smith and Richard Murphy. While pursuing his graduate degrees at the University of Kentucky, Kip studied applied percussion with Professor James B. Campbell and was assistant director of the U.K. Steel Band and Percussion Ensemble. Kip has served as an adjudicator for the Kentucky All-State Bands, Kentucky Music Educators Association solo and ensemble festivals, as well as KMEA marching and concert band festivals. Kip has served as “Band Chair” for the KMEA 3rd District. His bands have received consistent distinguished ratings at state and district level large ensemble assessments. The BCHS Concert Band performed at Carnegie Hall in 20212. Additionally, Kip has been named High School Teacher of the Year for the KMEA 3rd District. Dr. Crowder also holds several professional affiliations including Phi Beta Mu, Percussive Arts Society, NAFME, KMEA, Christian Educators Association and Phi Mu Alpha.

Amanda Jones – Visual Effect/Guard

The past executive director of Ekliptse Winterguard, Amanda "Jonesy" Jones, is home-grown talent, performing with Ekliptse 2002-2006. While completing her student-teaching, Amanda transitioned to become an Ekliptse staff member. Amanda learned from several talented directors, eventually taking the title as director in 2016. By day, Amanda teaches chemistry and STEM at Riverdale High School in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. She served as the color guard director at Riverdale, 2011-2023 and reintroduced their winter guard in 2014. Amanda graduated from Western Kentucky University with a double major in chemistry and mathematics and is also ACS certified. Most recently, Jonesy has served as Guard director for the Austin Peay State University “Governor’s Own” Marching Band.

Cody Thompson – Guard/Visual Effect

Cody Thompson is a native of Kingsport, TN where his pageantry career began as a performer in his local high school marching band and winter guard programs. Cody relocated to Middle Tennessee in 2012 and studied Public Relations & advertising at Middle Tennessee State University. While living in Middle Tennessee he was a performer with the MTSU Band of Blue and Ekliptse Winter Guard.

In 2015, Cody relocated to Chattanooga, TN and became the Director of Color Guards at Soddy-Daisy HS. Under his leadership he established a long-standing tradition of excellence within the color guard at Soddy-Daisy HS. Under his leadership, the Soddy-Daisy HS Color Guard was named a 5-time WGI Regional Finalist, and a WGI World Championship Scholastic A

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Semi-Finalist in 2019. Since that time Cody has helped numerous programs throughout the southeast including Signal Mountain HS, Brentwood HS, White House HS, Ooltewah HS, Reverie A, Reverie Open, Eklipse WinterGuard and Music City Drum and Bugle Corps. Cody currently resides in Kingsport, TN where he works in the gaming industry for the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Bristol, VA and actively judges for US Bands, the Rocky Mountain Judges Association, Connecting Individuals Through Performing Arts, & the Atlantic Indoor Association