

Judge Bios

Matthew Pellas Chief Judge

Mr. Matthew Pellas, has been a music educator for over 20 years, and is currently the Director of Bands at F. J. Carnage Middle School (FJCMS) in Raleigh, where he teaches four Concert Bands, a Jazz Band, and a Percussion Ensemble. Mr. Pellas believes in programming rigorous, high-quality music for his students at every level.

During his tenure at FJCMS, his bands have consistently received Superior ratings in Level 2, 3, and 4 concert literature. FJCMS bands have twice been invited to perform at the NC Music Educators' (NCMEA) State Conference. While at his previous school, Hunter Elementary in Raleigh, NC, the band program grew from 30 to 100 students, and they were invited to perform at the NCMEA State Conference in 2008.

Mr. Pellas is in demand as a guest clinician, conductor, and adjudicator. He has served on the North Carolina Central District Bandmaster Association board, as President of the NC East Central District Bandmasters Association, is a National Board Certified Teacher and a proud member of the American School Band Directors Association.

Mr. Pellas is married to Trinity, and they have three children, a daughter, Ava, a son, Ewan, and a French Bulldog named Bettis. The five of them live in Wendell, NC.

Evan Feldman Music Performance Ensemble Judge

Dr. Evan Feldman is Director of Wind Studies and Professor of Music at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he conducts the Wind Ensemble and teaches courses in conducting and music education. He also directs the Triangle Wind Ensemble and serves as Principal Guest Conductor of the Greensboro Symphony, where he conducts education, holiday, and select pops concerts.

He is an active guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator in and outside of the United States, with engagements in Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Romania, Belgium, and Tanzania, as well as all-state, all-district, and all-county honor bands in the United States. Under his direction, the UNC Wind Ensemble has twice been invited to perform at the College Band Directors National Association southern division conference, and the Triangle Wind Ensemble has received two invitations to perform at the North Carolina Music Educators conference, most recently in 2021.

In 2020, Dr. Feldman's college textbook, *Instrumental Music Education* (Routledge Publishing), was released in its third edition and has been adopted by university music education programs throughout the country. He is the author of the first MOOC (massive open online course) dedicated to conducting and rehearsal technique. Over 30,000 students have enrolled through Coursera.org.

He is editor of the *WASBE Journal* (World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles) dedicated to research about wind music, its history, and its performance practice. His arrangements and editions of music by Léo Delibes, Ralph Vaughan Williams, George Enescu, Antonin Dvořák, Ariel Ramirez, and Sergei Prokofiev are published by Tierloff Muziekcentrale.

Dr. Feldman earned the Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, where he studied with Donald Hunsberger and Mendi Rodan and served as an assistant conductor for the Eastman Wind Ensemble and Eastman Wind Orchestra. He received his Masters in Conducting from Ithaca College and his Bachelor of Arts in Music from Duke University. He previously taught high school band in Hicksville, NY.

Mike Gillespie Music Performance Individual Judge

Mike Gillespie joined The United States Army Field Band, a Washington D.C. premier military band, in 2020. With the band he has performed as a concerto soloist around the USA and on the PBS national broadcast for Veterans' Day.

He earned a Master of Music degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, a Master of Arts in Teaching degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Oklahoma. His primary teachers include Jim Ketch, Karl Sievers and Mark Clodfelter with additional studies with Carl Saunders, Charley Davis, and Tom Hooten.

Prior to joining the Field Band, he was the trumpet professor at Campbell University. Mike toured the globe with the Glenn Miller Orchestra, Shrek the Musical global tour and two runs of Elf the Musical as well as being a musician on cruise ships. As a freelancer, he has performed with the Platters, the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey circus and numerous other ensembles including brass bands, chamber music, jazz big bands, top 40 bands and recording studio sessions as an arranger, producer and performer.

An advocate for music education, Mike taught superior rated ensembles as a high school band director and is Orff Schulwerk certified. He taught Kindergarten through Grade 8 in Hong Kong for two years additionally fronting a jazz trio around the city singing and playing. He has written marching band show formations for dozens of schools, colleges and drum corps and taught drum corps for several seasons after performing in them as a youth. Mike marched Carolina Crown in 2002 and The Cavaliers 2005-2007 as a trumpet soloist. He taught Cavaliers in 2010 and Santa Clara Vanguard 2011-2014 as well as Carolina Gold 2011-2012. His drill design company, DrillforBand.com has been active since 2006. Most recently, Mike wrote the drill and choreography for The Army Field Band's show in Scotland at the Edinburg Military Tattoo.

Mike is an Appalachian trail thru hiker (2019) and a hot yoga certified instructor. He enjoys studying Tai Chi and thinking about running another marathon one day.



David Robinson

Music Effect Judge

Mr. David Robinson is a native of Yorktown, VA and graduated from York High School. He received his bachelor in Music Education, from Shenandoah Conservatory of Music. He began his teaching career at Jordan High School in Durham, NC where he taught for 20 years. In 2006, he opened Panther Creek High Band program where he taught Instrumental Music and was the Arts Department Chair. As a Director of Bands at Jordan High School and Panther Creek High School he maintained well-rounded music programs. Panther Creek always took four concert bands (Grades VI/M, VI, V and IV) to MPA, and received superior ratings with all four groups. The Marching Band consistently received top honors for their performances. Panther Creek also has two indoor guards, indoor percussion, two jazz ensembles and a jazz improvisation combo. All of the ensembles had a great tradition of success always maintaining a high standard of performance.

Mr. Robinson performs regularly within the Raleigh and Durham community on Clarinet and Saxophone. He has conducted clinic bands for CDBA All-District bands, UNC-Wilmington honors band, as well as several all-county honors bands throughout NC. He was elected the North Carolina Central District "Band Director of the Year" in 1997, and has received North Carolina's highest honor, "Award of Excellence" in 2000. Mr. Robinson was selected by School Band and Orchestra Magazine as the 2012 North Carolina representative of 50 Directors who make a difference. He received his National Board Certificate in 2001 and 2012. In 2021, he was inducted into the North Carolina Bandmaster's Hall of Fame. His professional affiliations include National Association for Music Education, Phi Mu Alpha: Professional Music Fraternity, and the Central District Bandmasters Association.

Mr. Robinson's greatest achievements are to have been married for 30 years to his wife, Kim and have two beautiful and talented children: Taylor (26), and Ben (24).

Andrew Patzig

Percussion Judge

Percussionist, composer, and educator, Dr. Andrew Patzig has performed in a variety of settings throughout North America including the College Band Directors National Convention, the Alabama Day of Percussion, the Tennessee Day of Percussion, the Collide Festival, the American Bandmasters Association Convention, and three performances at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC) as a winner of the International Percussion Ensemble Competition in 2012, 2015 and 2021.

He has performed with Bob Becker and Russell Hartenberger of NEXUS, and as a soloist performing Michael Daugherty's Timpani Concerto Raise the Roof with the Troy University Wind Ensemble. He also frequently performs with the South Carolina Philharmonic, Chattanooga Symphony Orchestra, and the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra. His major teachers include Scott Herring, Andy Harnsberger, and Adam Blackstock, with additional study under Michael Burritt, Gordon Stout, and Nancy Zeltsman.

Dr. Patzig has worked closely with acclaimed composers such as Kevin Bobo, Brian Nozny, David Skidmore, Lane Harder, and Adam Silverman commissioning new works for chamber and solo percussion. As an advocate of new music and an active composer, his newest work for percussion ensemble, *Mrityu* (मृत्यु), was premiered at PASIC in 2021, by the University of South Carolina Percussion Ensemble. His works are published with C. Alan Publications, TapSPACE Publications, and Ox&Lamb Publications among others.

With a passion for marching percussion, he has worked with various high school marching bands across the country showcasing musical talents through dynamic performances. In addition, he served as an assistant to Bailey Seabury, working with the "Mighty Sound of the Southeast" Drumline at the University of South Carolina from 2019 to 2023.

Currently, he holds the position of Assistant Director of Athletic Bands at Appalachian State University, where he instructs the percussion section of "North Carolina's Band of Distinction."

Dr. Patzig has earned a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Troy University in Troy, Alabama, a Master of Music in Percussion Performance from Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee, and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina.

Ian Jeffrey

Visual Performance Judge

Ian Jeffrey was born, raised, and currently resides in Richmond, Virginia where he holds the General Music Teacher position at Gayton Elementary School in Henrico County. Ian received his degree in Music Education at Virginia Commonwealth University and graduated in the spring of 2017. Ian serves as the Visual Coordinator and Drill Writer for Deep Run High School in Glen Allen, VA, which is his Alma Mater.

Ian's marching experience began at the Blue Stars Drum and Bugle Corps from 2012-2015. He was the tuba section leader for the 2013 and 2014 seasons and the horn sergeant for his age-out year in 2015. He also marched WGI at George Mason University as a cymbal player during the 2015 and 2016 seasons, where he held a section leader position.

Ian's teaching experience in the marching arts began at Deep Run High School in 2012. He taught at the Colts Drum and Bugle Corps from 2016-2019 with his last year there as the Assistant Visual Caption Head. Ian currently teaches at Carolina Crown as a visual instructor since 2020.

Ian also has some experience in education with WGI where he held the position of Visual Manager at the George Mason University Indoor Drumline from 2016-2020. He has taught and designed for a few local indoor drumlines throughout the Richmond area.

Ian brings a wide variety of concepts, pedagogy, and approaches to visual adjudication. He believes his various experiences in the marching arts will allow him to be successful in adjudicating today's performing ensembles.

Ralph Stewart

Visual Effect Judge

Ralph currently lives in Cumming, GA. He is a graduate of East Carolina University, where he received a Bachelor's degree in Music Education. Ralph marched in the brass section of Carolina Crown from 1991-1993, and served as Drum Major from 1994-1996. Ralph joined the visual staff of Boston Crusaders in 2000 and was their visual designer in 2005. In 2006, he returned to Carolina Crown, working with the visual team until 2008.

He has also served as the visual designer for Teal Sound, the visual caption head for the Blue Stars, and most recently as visual designer for the Colts and the Phantom Regiment. He's been an active judge and clinician for many indoor and marching band circuits for over 20 years, and is a designer for bands, guards, and indoor percussion programs throughout the US.

Stephanie Stewart

Colorguard Judge

Stephanie Renell Stewart is from the Atlanta, Georgia area and has been involved with marching arts programs across the country for over 25 years. She is currently working with Carolina Crown Drum Bugle Corps and Paramount Winterguard. She has worked with other groups including Phantom Regiment, Madison Scouts, and Santa Clara Vanguard. She has also been involved with many high school programs. Her experience also includes Carolina Crown Winterguard, Phantom Regiment Winterguard and the Knights. Stephanie is currently a judge with the Gulf Coast Judges Association and judges across the country during fall and Winterguard seasons.

Alex Alberti

Timing / Penalties

Alexander [Alex] Alberti lives in Raleigh, North Carolina. Alberti currently serves as the Artistic Director and conductor of the Triangle Pride Band, a local community symphonic and marching program.

He formerly taught at Longleaf School of the Arts in Raleigh, North Carolina as the Director of Instrumental Music. At LSA, he taught Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, AP Music Theory, AP Psychology, Music History, and a contemporary a cappella ensemble, along with running the school's Indoor Marching Ensemble program.

Alberti received his Master's degree in Music Education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He is an alumnus of Appalachian State University, where he holds an undergraduate degree in Music Education and a minor in Psychology.

Alberti is an active researcher in the field of music education, contemporary vocal music, and music theory pedagogy, presenting his findings nationally at conferences such as NAFME, the College Music Society, and NCUR.

In his spare time, Alberti composes both choral and instrumental works, judges for the International Competition for Collegiate A Cappella and A Cappella Education Association, and participates in the semi-professional a cappella group, Triadic Vocals.