



Panther Creek High School Band

ANDREW B. WEISS – DIRECTOR OF BANDS

aweiss@wcpss.net, 919-773-3838

2021 Panther Creek Invitational Judges Bios

Chief Judge - Matt Pellas

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 (11 years), a son, Ewan (9 years), and a French Bulldog named Bettis. The five of them live in Wendell, NC.

Music Performance Ensemble - Dominic Talanca

Dominic Talanca is Director of Bands and Assistant Professor of Music at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. Dr. Talanca conducts the Symphonic Band and Pep Band, teaches courses in conducting and woodwind techniques, and administers all aspects of the band program. He is also the conductor of the Wilmington Symphonic Winds and the OLLI New Horizons Band.

Talanca received the Bachelor of Music Education degree and Master of Music in Wind Conducting degree from the University of North Texas, where he studied conducting with Eugene Migliaro Corporon. He received his Doctor of Musical Arts in Wind Conducting degree at Northwestern University, where he studied with Mallory Thompson.

Dr. Talanca taught for ten years in the Lewisville Independent School District in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex and served as the Associate Director of Bands at Marcus High School in Flower Mound, Texas from 2006-2013, during which time the student musicians were recognized for their performances in concert and marching activities - earning numerous placements in the All-Region and All-State ensembles as well as 4 consecutive biannual Texas 5A State Marching Championship Awards.



Panther Creek High School Band

ANDREW B. WEISS – DIRECTOR OF BANDS

aweiss@wcpss.net, 919-773-3838

Talanca is co-author of a beginning band method entitled *Musical Mastery*, published by MRNS Music. Additionally, Dr. Talanca has contributed two articles to the *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band* series, published by GIA Publications. He has recorded over 450 significant works in the wind band repertoire on the Mark Custom, Klavier, Naxos, and GIA recording labels. Talanca has also had the privilege to conduct as well as perform and record with the Lone Star Wind Orchestra.

Dr. Talanca is an active conductor, masterclass clinician, and adjudicator. His professional affiliations include Pi Kappa Lambda (National Music Honor Society), the College Band Directors National Association, North Carolina Music Educators Association, and he is an honorary member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

Music Performance Individual - Michael Larkin

Michael Larkin is in his sixth year as Director of Bands of The Colony High School. Under his leadership, The Colony High School Marching Band advanced to the Texas State Marching Band Contest in 2017, which marked their first appearance in ten years. In addition to marching band, The Colony High School concert ensembles consistently receives sweepstakes superior ratings at concert UIL assessments. Prior to arriving at The Colony, Mr. Larkin was the Director of Bands at Jupiter High School in Jupiter, FL from 2010-2016. During his last two years at Jupiter High School, Mr. Larkin led the band to back-to-back state championship marching band titles, and finished top 5 each year prior. The concert bands, percussion ensembles, chamber ensembles, jazz ensembles, winter guards, and winter percussion consistently received superior ratings at district and state level assessments. The band program nearly doubled during his tenure, and the color guard program more than tripled. The Jupiter High School Varsity Winter Guard made their Winter Guard International World Championships debut in 2015, placing 4th in finals after a 1st place semi-finals placement. In 2013, Mr. Larkin was nominated for the William T. Dwyer award for excellence in Palm Beach County. In his first year of eligibility (after 3 years of service), his fellow teachers voted him their school's nomination to represent them in the annual all-county award, which included 27 high schools.

Mr. Larkin received a Master of Music Degree in Music Performance -Trombone from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem. At UNCSA he performed with the symphony orchestra, wind ensemble, jazz ensemble and the trombone choir. Prior to attending UNCSA, he received a Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Education from the University of North



Panther Creek High School Band

ANDREW B. WEISS – DIRECTOR OF BANDS

aweiss@wcpss.net, 919-773-3838

Carolina at Greensboro, where he performed with the wind ensemble, jazz band, symphonic band, brass ensemble, undergraduate trombone quartet, and the trombone ensemble.

Mr. Larkin was an instructor with The Academy Drum and Bugle Corps from 2012-2017, serving as brass caption head from 2014-2017. During his 6 total years with The Academy, he played a key role in leading the drum corps into making their first ever appearance in the Drum Corps International World Championship Finals in 2016. He has also served as a brass instructor for the Boston Crusaders, the six-time world champion Santa Clara Vanguard, as well as the 2007 Division III world champion Memphis Sound Drum and Bugle Corps. He was a member of Carolina Crown Drum and Bugle Corps from 2003 to 2006 and the Santa Clara Vanguard in 2008. Mr. Larkin has been an instructor with numerous high school marching and concert ensembles throughout the country, including the 2017 Army All-American Marching Band, and has also served as a guest conductor and adjudicator.

Mr. Larkin has studied trombone privately with James Miller of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra and UNCSA, and Dr. Randy Kohlenberg from UNCG. He has also taken lessons from other artists such as Thomas Burge, Irvin Wagner, and Tony Mazzochi. He has studied conducting with Dr. Kevin Gerald and Mark Norman.

Music Effect - Kevin Leboeuf

Kevin LeBoeuf has served as brass caption manager for The Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps, based in Rosemont, Illinois, since 2018. He previously served on the Carolina Crown brass staff for three years, and performed as a member the four-years prior.

Kevin's undergraduate degree is from Rutgers University, completing his degree in 2014 in music education. While at Rutgers, he studied Euphonium under Dr. Stephen Allen and the late Darryl Bott. LeBoeuf continued on to complete his graduate degree in wind-band conducting, under the instruction of Dr. Travis Cross at the University of California, Los Angeles. Outside of Drum Corps, LeBoeuf balances a career split between New York, Los Angeles, and Japan.

He serves as the brass caption head for the Aimachi marching band in Handa, Japan. In 2017 LeBoeuf started the first marching brass clinic in Nagoya Japan, drawing over 150 participants



Panther Creek High School Band

ANDREW B. WEISS – DIRECTOR OF BANDS

aweiss@wcpss.net, 919-773-3838

in its first year. In 2016 he served as brass caption head for Aimachi Winds, winning their first WGI gold medal in the organization's history.

When away from the Cavaliers and Aimachi, LeBoeuf serves as a concert and marching band consultant, composer and arranger. In addition to music instruction, LeBoeuf started his own live sound business in 2014, "Central Jersey Sound," and is a part owner of "Gabriel Sound LLC." Both companies' purpose is to provide professional installation, repair, rental, and consultation for all things sound. Kevin is also a traveling wedding DJ, church music director, and a spoken-word recording artist.

When not traveling, teaching, or working, LeBoeuf can be found refinishing homes, playing guitar at bluegrass jams in Brooklyn, NY, fishing in the Adirondacks, or longingly gazing into dog adoption center windows.

Visual Performance - Ian Jeffrey

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



Panther Creek High School Band

ANDREW B. WEISS – DIRECTOR OF BANDS

aweiss@wcpss.net, 919-773-3838

his various experiences in the marching arts will allow him to be successful in adjudicating today's performing ensembles.

Visual Effect - Warren Rickart

Warren Rickart is an internationally recognized marching band and winter guard adjudicator and clinician. A veteran adjudicator for WGI Sport of the Arts, he has adjudicated their color guard world championships and international and regional competitions since 1997. He also adjudicates for Drum Corps International and Bands of America at their regional and world championships. He has served as a member of the WGI Sport of the Arts Judge Administration team and as the WGI Equipment/Movement caption manager for WGI Sport of the Arts. Mr. Rickart was elected in 2008 to the Hall of Honor for the Atlantic Indoor Association. He is the former chief judge of the Southern States Judges Association, education director for the Atlantic Indoor Association Adjudicators and has held memberships in the AIA Adjudicators, Florida Federation Judges Association, Mid-East Judges Association, Southern States Judges Association and Gulf Coast Judges Association. He was a member of the Madison Scouts drum and bugle corps and Miller's Blackhawks winter guard and has been visual caption head, color guard caption head, and clinician for numerous award-winning bands around the country. Mr. Rickart resides in Washington, DC.

Colorguard - Jeff Dale

Jeffery Dale is the Director of First Flight Winter Guard, which was formed in 1997. In addition, he has instructed for multiple high school programs over the course of his career. Jeff is a graduate from NC State University and wears his traffic engineering hat when not teaching colorguard.

Percussion - KJ Stafford

K.J. Stafford has been involved with Drum Corps International for almost two decades, currently serving as the Assistant Percussion Caption Head for the Santa Clara Vanguard where he has worked since 2011. During that time, Vanguard has earned five Fred Sanford Awards for Best Percussion: 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 as well as the DCI World Championship in 2018. Prior to working at Vanguard, K.J. also taught on the percussion staff of the Phantom Regiment (2010 DCI High Percussion Champions) and the Troopers (2007-2009).



Panther Creek High School Band

ANDREW B. WEISS – DIRECTOR OF BANDS

aweiss@wcpss.net, 919-773-3838

K.J.'s arrangements for marching band, indoor drumline and percussion ensemble have been performed throughout the United States. Ensembles performing his music include champions, medalists and finalists at numerous national and regional championships in Winter Guard International, Bands of America as well as other performing arts circuits.

Currently residing in Chesapeake, Virginia, K.J. is the band director and music department chair at Hickory Middle School. His responsibilities include directing the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade bands, jazz band, woodwind choir and percussion ensembles. Under his direction, the bands at Hickory Middle School have consistently received superior ratings at state concert band festivals and have been invited to perform at the Virginia Music Educators State Conference.

K.J. earned his Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from the University of North Texas in Denton, TX. While at North Texas, he studied under Paul Rennick, Christopher Deane, Mark Ford and Dr. Robert Schietroma. He has also earned a Master's Degree in Secondary Education from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia.

When not teaching at home or with the drum corps, K.J. is in demand as an arranger, adjudicator, clinician, designer and instructor with groups throughout the United States. His professional affiliations include the Percussive Arts Society, NAFME and VMEA. K.J. endorses Innovative Percussion, Remo Drumheads and SABIAN Cymbals.

Timing/Penalties - Megan Budway

Megan Budway, from Cary, NC, graduated from UNC-Wilmington with a B.A. in Music Education and UNC-Greensboro with a M.M. in Music Education. She currently teaches elementary music in Wake County.

Megan has played synthesizer with several world class ensembles throughout her marching career including Palmetto Percussion (PIW), Matrix World Percussion (PIW), Colts Drum & Bugle Corps, and Phantom Regiment. After aging out, Megan stepped into a staff role as a sound engineer for Phantom Regiment & The Cavaliers. Megan has presented to the CWEA circuit directors and instructors on marching arts audio and records vocals for performance ensembles across the country.



Panther Creek High School Band

ANDREW B. WEISS – DIRECTOR OF BANDS

aweiss@wcpss.net, 919-773-3838

Outside of the marching world, Megan is a World Champion ninja athlete and has appeared on the TV show American Ninja Warrior.