



November 2025
Volume 54 • Number 12



Published by Sights & Sounds, Inc.

222 South Bristol Street, Apt. 407
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

Office phone -- 608-249-2590 (cell)

Steve Vickers -- Publisher, editor, designer

E-mail -- publisher@drumcorpsworld.com

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Drum Corps World is published on-line monthly for a total of 12 issues, plus four weekly editions during July and August, covering the summer competitions with show performance reviews and photography. This is a complimentary magazine provided by Sights & Sounds, Inc., a privately-held Wisconsin corporation.

The magazine is dedicated to the distribution of news, photography and feature material offering current and historical information on the drum and bugle corps and corps-related organizations worldwide.

Drum Corps World is provided free through financial support from advertising placed by companies, service providers, competition sponsors and corps.

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From the publisher

The October issue was released about a month ago with the addition of a mobile version for viewing on a phone or tablet, the ability to view the traditional desk and laptop magazines that have been available since going digital in May 2011 and published on the Internet.

I'm very pleased to tell you that the readership has grown significantly as a result. Obviously we've been a couple of decades behind the times, with the mobile feature, but with the help of staff member Gary Dickelman, this major upgrade was made possible.

Readers can now choose between the regular edition or view the mobile version. Features of this new way to enjoy the publication include translations into 30 different languages and the ability to have a voice read the article(s) to you.

We're also adding some new staff writers who will be contributing interviews, features, columns and news material.

In the meantime, a sincere appreciation goes out to the writers and photographers who contributed to the content during the 2025 season. Without their continuing support the publication would not exist.

So as we roll along toward the 2026 season, we'll be filling issues with interesting content about what's happening today and in history.

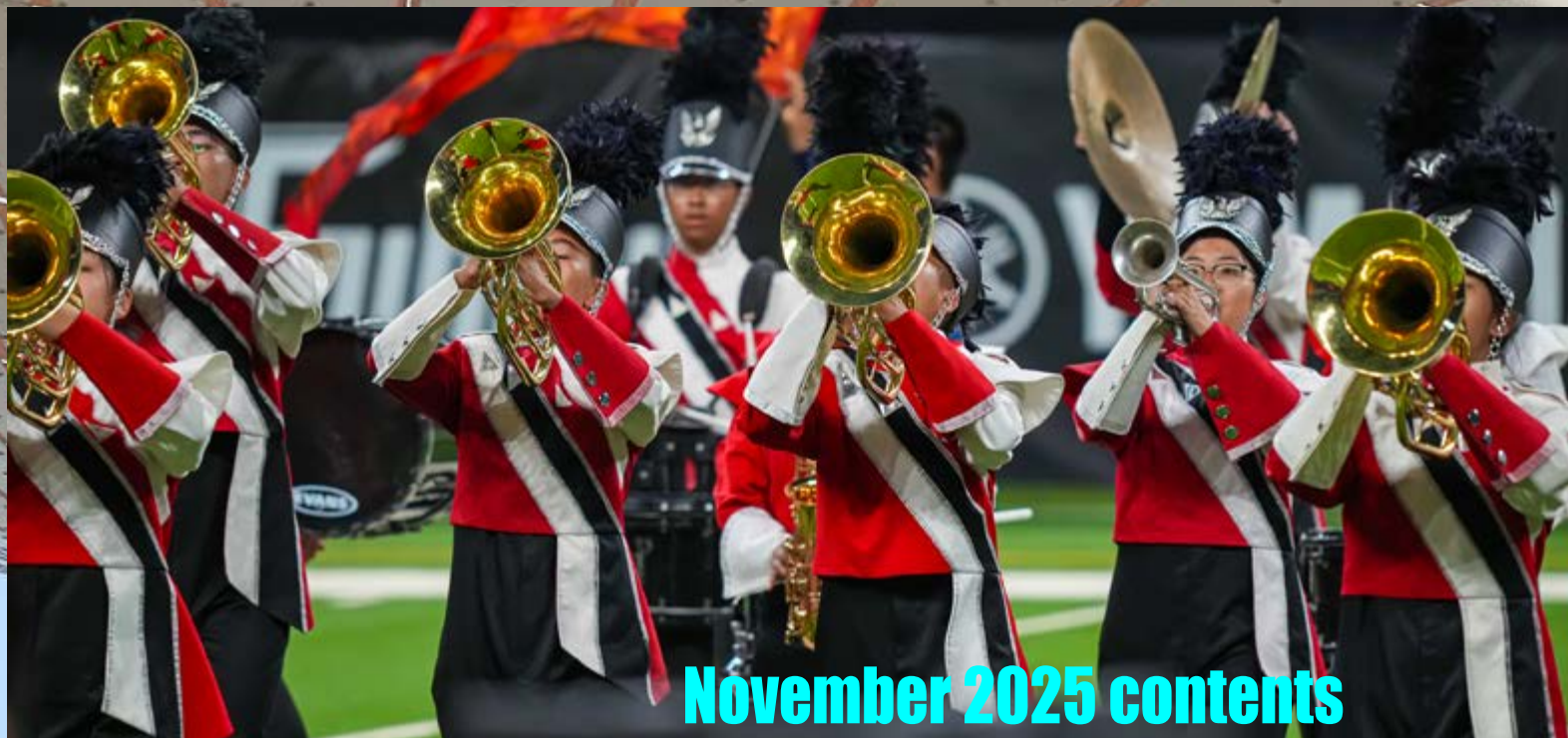


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The next issue

The December 2025 issue will be released on or before Friday, November 21.



November 2025 contents



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- ▲ 5 **Nine new DCW books**
- ▲ 9 **Band Shoppe**
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- ▲ 33 **Fruhauf Uniforms**
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- ▲ 43 **Drillmasters Shoes**
- ▲ 47 **Stanbury Uniforms**
- ▲ 51 **Dinkles Shoes**
- ▲ 57 **www.wescanfiles**
- ▲ 61 **Drum Corps Int'l**

- ▲ 4 **Drum Corps World's makeover** -- by Gary Dickelman
- ▲ 6 **Blue Diamonds take first European title** -- by Hans Kloppert
- ▲ 12 **Great first edition of "German Music"** -- by Hans Kloppert
- ▲ 16 **Around the drum corps world** -- by Michael Carlson
- ▲ 34 **2025 Midwest Combine Experience Camp, October 26**
- ▲ 38 **Activity history tells story in six photo books**
- ▲ 40 **Visual and percussion evolutions**-- by Austin Thorup
- ▲ 44 **A reset to save old school house** -- by Kevin Russell
- ▲ 48 **The amazing world of drum corps-** by Brian Tolzmann
- ▲ 52 **Moe Knox photos**
- ▲ 54 **Blessed Sacrament Golden Knights host "Cavalcade of Brass" after 14 years off**
- ▲ 56 **Buglers Hall of Fame announces new officers** -- by Stephen Anderman
- ▲ 58 **September 1971 Drum Corps Digest**
- ▲ 60 **Spartans approved for DCI World Class membership** -- by DCI
- ▲ 62 **Announcements**
- ▲ 70 **The way we were** -- artwork by Don Daber
- ▲ 70 **Corps World fax** -- artwork by Don Daber



Drum Corps World's major make-over!

by Steve Vickers and Gary Dickelman

Over the past two months we've been hard at work shaping a better *Drum Corps World* for readers everywhere. You told us what would make the magazine more useful and more enjoyable, we listened. Here's what's new:

A faster, friendlier Web site

Our upgraded, fully-responsive site at drumcorpsworld.com delivers smoother navigation, quicker load times and cleaner layouts on any device. All the familiar sections are there, now with better usability and performance.

Back issues at your fingertips.

From the latest issue page, you can now jump to any *DCW* back issue with one click -- no pop-ups, no hassle. Our archive reaches back to 2011 so you can revisit seasons, stories and photos from across the marching-arts world.

A refreshed logo for a living legacy

We've retired our 1971-era trade mark and introduced a new logo that honors 54 years of *Drum Corps World* while looking forward. It reflects who we are: the global source for show reviews, corps news, interviews, features, vendor resources, commentary and breaking updates . . . 16 issues each year.



Introducing DCW Mobile

Our new mobile edition adapts beautifully to whatever you read on -- phone, tablet or desktop --- so you get a premium experience anywhere. Accessibility is built in: adjust Text Size, switch Light/Dark Mode, use Read-Aloud and choose Language Translation. Each mobile issue (starting September 2025) includes a simple, step-by-step job aid to help you set preferences in your browser or device.



Books you love now on Kindle

By popular demand, the *History of Drum and Bugle Corps* series and our photo yearbooks (2014-2019) are now available on Amazon Kindle -- just in time for gift-giving season. Ordering details appear in this issue.

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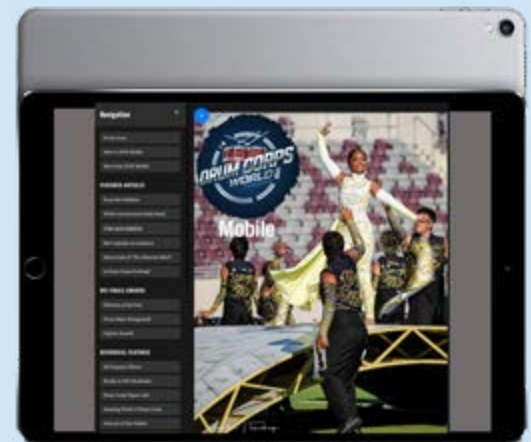
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Drum Corps World has always been about bringing the global marching-arts community together -- World Class, Open Class, All-age, alumni, international ensembles, SoundSport, DrumLine Battle and more.

These upgrades are for you

Explore the new features, dive into the archives, try the mobile edition and tell us what you think. Your ideas shape our future, and we're committed to delivering the best reading experience for everything drum corps . . . worldwide.

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Blue Diamonds take first European title, Jong Jubal takes home their 15th!

by Hans Kloppert , Drum Corps World staff (hanskloppert@gmail.com)

Dordrecht – The Netherlands, September 27, 2025 . . . The apotheosis of the 2025 European corps season was once again held at the FC Dordrecht stadium. Ten units from three different countries came together to battle for the 2025 Premier Class, Junior Class, Concert Class and SoundSport titles.

The 2025 championships saw fewer corps on the field compared to last year, with the absence of top units such as last year's European Drum Corps Championships Premier Class champions Beeches from Barnsley and hometown favorite Jubal as the biggest losses for the circuit.

Beeches decided to fully commit to the indoor (SoundSport) circuit in the UK and hometown Jubal unfortunately did not field a corps this season due to decreased membership.

WIK from Belgium, one of the surprise units from the last two EDCC championships, did not have their new show ready and decided not to sign up for this year. We hope to welcome them back in 2026, of course.

The competition was nevertheless fierce, especially in Premier Class, where Blue Diamonds from Nienhagen (Germany) edged rival Spirit of 52 from Rastede (Germany) by a mere tenth of a point in finals. Just three weeks ago, Blue Diamonds still had a five-point lead over Spirit at the German Music Championships.

Blue Diamonds (below, Hans Kloppert) took the field very convincingly. Quality-wise, the corps has grown



immensely over the last few years. A renewed and talented staff managed to take them to another level. There was creative drill development throughout the show, titled "Outside the Box." The corps literally broke free in exploring new ideas, bringing sounds not heard on European drum corps fields before.

In the opening segment of the show, the corps escaped from large aluminum frames that portrayed the boxes society has put humanity in.

A fresh look for the color guard in checkered bodysuits enriched their performance, which led to a well-deserved High Color Guard Award.

This year's repertoire included *Dark Clouds* (Temen Oblak), *Chasing the Horizon* (Venugopal), and *Polaris* (Hiromi). My favorite part by far was Metallica's Nothing Else Matters.

Blue Diamonds corps director Heiko Hildebrandt couldn't be happier about taking their first-ever European

title tonight: "This is an incredible feeling! I have been with Blue Diamonds for 35 years now and have always admired the other great drum and bugle corps and now we've claimed the European title ourselves. It's so unreal!"



Spirit of 52 (above, Hans Kloppert) turned the stadium into a Steampunk venue. They put a lot of detail into their uniforms, especially their color guard and front ensemble outfits. The corps took the crowd on an extraordinary journey: "Spellbound Odyssey – Lands of Illusion," opening in a place where reality and illusion dance together. From there, the corps traveled to the realm of animal creatures, where fantastic beasts filled the music with life.

From a land of light magic, the mood rapidly shifted as dark magic broke the balance, showing a violent battle between good and evil, coming together in a thrilling reprise.

I loved the corps' musical selections from 'Fantastic Beasts,' *Now You See Me* (Jacob Collier) and *Epic Score*. Hats off to the drum line, which earned their third consecutive European High Percussion Award. Percussion designer Malte Steiner reflected on their performance. "Although we faced more start-up challenges this season than in previous years, earning our third Percussion Award in a row feels just as rewarding. This group has shown how far you can go with hard work and trust in the staff team."

Showband Irene (right)

Francois Deschacht from Ede (The Netherlands) had originally registered to participate in the new Show Class, but as they would have been the only contestant so they decided to move to Premier Class and not without success!

The massive unit took the field by storm in their bright red, white and black uniforms with their "Queen of Egypt" production. This type of show is not common in the European scene and was a welcome change of mood today.

Props around the field set the stage for the opening segment with a sunrise over the Egyptian desert, as vibrant music set everyday life in motion. A grand entrance by the majestic Queen Cleopatra ended shortly after as the Romans arrived, led by Julius Caesar -- change was on the horizon.



Was this going to be a romantic love story between Cleopatra and Julius Caesar? A beautiful role for trombonist Eva Coolen, who not only plays beautifully, but performs with great poise.

Irene's performance was one of the steadiest today. The drill was maybe not as fast-paced as the top two, but the formations and developments were very clear. The horn line outdid themselves and walked away with the High Brass Award.

Irene chairman Wim Jansen commented, "We look back with pride on our participation in EDCC. With the feedback and experience gained during this event, we can continue to build toward the coming season in a focused way. In addition, we are especially proud of receiving the High Brass Caption Award, a wonderful recognition of the effort, dedication and musical growth of our brass section."

Brass & Drum Corps Kriftel (below, Francois Deschacht) from Kriftel (Germany), moved up from competing in Concert Class in previous years to Premier Class this year and going in this new direction worked really well for the corps. Where one might have expected them to lag behind, as they were not used to performing drill, they



managed to make incredible progress through the winter and season to come out with a very worthy show, "Inside the Arena."

Yes, ancient Rome -- where fame and honor came at the cost of bloodshed. It was cool to see

the gladiators enter the arena under the watchful eyes of the almighty emperor.

One simple gesture -- a thumb toward the sky or down toward the earth -- decided their fate, whether they would live or die. Could they take fate into their own hands and dare challenge the emperor?

An excellent choice of repertoire fit the theme of the show well, with a beautiful rendition of James Horner's *For the Love of a Princess* and a powerful *The Battle* by Hans Zimmer.

Kriftel, the biggest corps on the field today, is definitely a contender to watch in the coming years. They will undoubtedly come out even stronger. Welcome to Premier Class!

Inbhear Mór (right, Francois Deschacht) from Arklow (Ireland) is one of the most consistent participants at the European Championships. They always travel the furthest of all corps and are true ambassadors for their country. The corps gained around 15 members compared to last year, a great contribution to their "Les Misérables" show.

Chairman Oisín Molloy, dressed as Inspector Javert in full costume with a blocked bicorn hat, led the corps again



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from the drum major podium, taking them through the timeless story of resilience, revolution and redemption. It is always a pleasure to see and hear this fine corps perform and they bring the best fans along from Ireland. What a lively bunch!

Claude-Michel Schönberg's original charts were beautifully arranged for Inbhear Mór, with a stunning trumpet solo in *Bring Him Home*, played by Sean Molloy from the barricade prop at the back of the field -- an absolute highlight of the show. You could hear a pin drop in the stadium. Schönberg would be proud. So would Victor Hugo!

Chairman Oisín Molloy on this year's event: "We were delighted to return to Dordrecht for this year's championships. This marked our eighth time participating in this show and it's always a big highlight for our members. We are already looking forward to 2026!"

Concert Class had only one competitor this year, recently crowned German national champion **Blue Bandits** (right, Francois Deschacht) from Hagenburg. A bit smaller, but definitely not less entertaining! Blue Bandits performed their program, "What If," to music by composer Bryan T. Harmsen. For a relatively small unit, they perform a challenging drum and brass book and execute it really well. I hope to see more Concert Class units register for next season so we have more competition in all classes which would, of course, also be more interesting for Blue Bandits.



Junior Class was once again dominated by hometown **Jong Jubal** (left, Francois Deschacht) from Dordrecht, which captured their 15th European title today, sweeping all captions as well. Their show, "Jong Jubal and the Myth of El Dorado," is pure fun and that energy can be seen throughout the show on the young members' faces. They absolutely love performing.



Opening with individual brass soloists, the scene quickly changes into a whirlwind of brass players getting ready for the opening statement. The color guard has improved a lot this year and dances as if they're on national TV. The drum line cleverly uses a round drum frame to play jungle rhythms. What a joy to see these young kids at work!

The same goes, of course, for second-place **Jeugdsowband Irene** (top of next page, Francois Deschacht) and third-place Diamond

Cadets. These junior corps deserve far more credit than they get and should be booked year-round at major exhibition events.

Irene (Ede, The Netherlands) performed their new show "Grandpa's Story," a wonderful tribute to the tales and musical memories of the past that Grandpa once shared with them. Every scene was performed with precision: from first loves in the schoolyard, black-and-white TVs in the living room, flowers in the hair, to disco balls above the dance floor -- all brought together in a playlist full of memories. From slick hairstyles to vinyl, from soul to Spotify, every decade with its own sound and style. Well done and welcome to EDCC!

Diamond Cadets (middle on next page, Francois Deschacht) from Nienhagen (Germany) are the feeder corps for Premier Class Champion Blue Diamonds. After a long and likely tiring seven-hour bus ride, they performed their



“Inside Out” show as if it were the start of a fresh new day.

Based on one of the most successful animated film series in cinema history, “Inside Out,” Diamond Cadets take the crowd on a journey through emotions and do it very well.

They start with the unbridled feeling of anger, soon switching to deep sadness, leading into exuberant joy toward the end of the show. The musical book features selections from the film itself, the animated movie “Shrek” and music by Metallica.

The recently-established strategic partnership between the European Drum Corps Championships and Drum Corps International in the US resulted in this year’s first implementation of SoundSport® in the championships event. With only one competitor in this new class this year, SoundSport has great potential to grow in the coming years, as it provides a stage for a wide variety of ensembles -- small or large, from mini-corps to full performance groups.

Beatrix’ Hilversum (below left,

Francois Deschacht) is The Netherlands’ first SoundSport competitor and debuted their combined show/concert performance in front of the very appreciative crowd. Not a specific show theme, but rather a selection of some of the best pop songs of the last few decades, including Michael Jackson’s *Thriller*, *Boogie Wonderland* (Earth, Wind & Fire), *Who Wants to Live Forever* (Queen), *Africa* (Toto), and the well-received closer, *California Dreamin’* (The Mamas and the Papas).

This many-time European Champion from the early 2000s has a long and successful history in the national and international drum corps scene. After experimenting with standstill concert performances and



competitions for a few years, it’s certainly good to see them back on the field and rebuilding their corps again.

Jubal Orange Brass (no photo available) is Jubal’s newest unit and treated fans and fellow corps to two exhibition concerts prior to the evening finals, one in the food court area and another right before the award ceremony in front of the stands. This brass ensemble originated from Jubal’s long-time Christmas ensemble and now performs at concerts and festivals.

EDCC 2025 recaps:

Prelims - <https://recaps.competitionsuite.com/41bfe067-2065-4c9d-8a57-1d68e873003e.htm>

Finals - <https://recaps.competitionsuite.com/03a8be49-fb9c-4f4e-84ef-64343d61fcc4.htm> ■

Great first edition of “German Music Championships”

by Hans Kloppert , Drum Corps World staff (hanskloppert@gmail.com)

Celle, Germany - September 6, 2025 . . . The very first edition of the German Music Championships was a massive success! The event followed up on the “German Open,” which was discontinued after last year’s final edition.

In Germany, drum corps became popular in the 1980s. The association Drum Corps Deutschland (DCD), which was newly-founded during this time, only lasted for a few years. Many drum corps became inactive or shifted their competition elsewhere, mainly in The Netherlands.

In September 1998, the first “German Open” took place in Hameln. In 2002, the association Drum Corps Germany was founded. However, this association dissolved in 2010. Since then there has been no national drum corps association in Germany, but the “German Open” events have continued to take place every year in September in Hameln until 2024.

Blue Diamonds drum and bugle corps stepped up when last year Starriders discontinued the organisation of the annual “German Open” in 2024. “German Open” was first held in 1998, traditionally held on the first Saturday in September, and became a very popular event. In 2000 “German Open” welcomed the Concord Blue Devils.

The stadium in Celle proved to be a much more desirable venue than the one previously used in Hameln for the “German Championships,” as the soccer stadium did not have a running track in between the stands and the field. This first edition also drew a much larger crowd than before. Drum corps is back on the calendar in Germany. Thank you, Blue Diamonds, for stepping in and making this happen!

The number of remaining active (competitive) corps on the mainland in Europe might be small, but Germany holds up well. Despite the declining number of actual drum and bugle corps, Blue Diamonds managed to organize a highly-varied event, in which the new-for-Europe SoundSport® also found a place in the program. In addition to the competition in Premier and Junior Class, the event also featured regional bands, orchestras, a cheerleading team and a junior color guard division.

Blue Diamonds (above middle, Hans Kloppert) from Nienhagen walked away convincingly with the 2025 German Premier Class title with an almost 5-point lead over runners up Spirit of 52 from Rastede. Diamonds showed superiority on many levels with their highly entertaining and innovative programme, “Outside the Box.”

The corps took a radical change in approach of show concept, which has worked really well for them. Diamonds’ 2026 repertoire consisted of *Dark Clouds* (Temen Oblak), *Nothing Else Matters* (Metallica), *Chasing the Horizon* Venugopal) and *Polaris*



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(Hiromi)

Spirit of 52 (bottom of previous page, Hans Kloppert) from Rastede annually host their own major marching arts event in their hometown early July. From that contest the corps has made immense progress with their show of "Spellbound Odyssey." The drum line performed at an unprecedented high level for early September. The color guard made spectacular use of large feathers. Spirit's 2026 repertoire included *Fantastic Beasts* (James Newton Howard), *Now you see me 2* (Brian Tyler), *A Close Friend* (James Newton Howard), *Every Little thing she Does Is Magic* (Sting, the police), *Ride to Glory* (Aaron Sapp) and a reprise with selections from the first four segments of the show.



Brass & Drum Corps Kriftel (left, Hans Kloppert) from Kriftel surprised everyone this season, as they had made the most drastic change in their history, going from a standstill concert class performance to a full field show and thus competed in Premier Class for the very first time. And they did really really well! Hats off to both staff and members of the corps.

Their show, "Inside the Arena," portrayed life in Rome and featured Gladiators and a character role of the mighty emperor. Kriftel has paid a lot of attention to details in their programme, both musically, visually, but definitely also in the look of the corps.



Drum & Music Corps Blue Bandits (left, Hans Kloppert) from Hagenburg has dominated the German and European Concert Class for many years. Although Blue Bandits were the only participant in their class this season, they certainly did not rest on their laurels. Once again this year they presented a full-fledged and engaging musical program "What If," in which questions that affect us all were dealt with effectively: Am I

stronger on my own or as part of a team? Should I be loud or quiet? Do I choose the path to the right or to the left?

This year's Junior Class title went to hometown **Diamond Cadets** (left Hans Kloppert), also the only competitor in their class today. These very young kids have come a long way! Without a doubt it certainly demands a lot of effort from staff to get this young a group perform such a mature show. Very effective use of gymnastics balls in the opener! These kids are the future of drum corps in Germany!

I hope we will see Youngstars from Rastede return to the German Championships as well. I truly enjoyed their performance at the Rasteder Musiktage in July. For any competing unit it would be a warm welcome to have other corps to go up against in competition in the same class.

As said this year German Music Championships saw the premiere of SoundSport on the European mainland. Drum Corps United Kingdom and the Irish Marching Band Association had implemented SoundSport a few years ago, but Now other European countries can start getting excited about this unique and highly popular Drum Corps International .program, which provides an opportunity to compete in a smaller setting as well, no matter the composition of the unit.

Hannover's **Flying Drums** (top of next page, Hans Kloppert) took top honours today in the SoundSport® competition. Although this fine (mini)corps has been around since 1994, I have hardly ever run into them at (drumcorps) contests. In 2007 they won the German Open Concert Class title. With this year's show, "Inside Out," the corps wants to send a message of diversity, acceptance and tolerance. It is OK to be different, to feel different and to think differently. Musical selections included *Fix You* and *Viva la Vida Loco*.



Spielmannszug **Magic Flames** (left, Hans Kloppert) from Wolfsburg-Hartoff took second in SoundSport®. This band keeps the drum and fife tradition alive. Simple drill moves, but straightforward excellent playing. Everyone especially liked their moves in the “James Bond” theme.

In addition to the competition segment of the event, there were several highly entertaining exhibition performances today.



With the sun setting in the background and the crowd gradually entering the stands, the event was opened by **Big Band Immanuel-Kant-Gymnasium**, (no photo available) a school big band with a long musical history.

Wölper Löwen Junior Guard (middle left, Hans Kloppert) treated the crowd to their show in which courage to change and happiness were portrayed well. They danced their way through some clever guard work to songs like *Courage to Change* by SIA and Andy Grammer's *Joy*. Well done!



Blue Diamonds Cheerleading (second bottom bottom left, Hans Kloppert) entertained with pom pom and dance routines. The performance included all three cheerleading squads the unit has, with an age range from 9 through 16 today.

It wasn't until I asked Heiko Hildebrandt (corps director of Blue Diamonds, if he could bring this dance team to the European Drum Corps Championships, that I found out there was no connection between the two units. The cheerleading accidentally happens to use the exact same name. They are the cheerleading team for MTV Eintracht Celle.



We don't hear bagpipes at drum corps events all that often, but today **Crest of Gordon** (bottom left, Hans Kloppert) dressed in blue-green-yellow kilts (after the Gordon Clan near Aberdeen) filled the Celle stadium with their specific sound in songs such as *Amazing Grace* and *Scotland the Brave*.

Fanfarenzug Allertal (below, Hans Kloppert) from Winsem Allertal celebrated its 10th anniversary with a trip to the German Music Championships. Dressed in medieval-like costumes, their standstill performance opened to Abba's *Mama Mia* and immediately got the crowd to clap and sing along. They gained even more support playing Snollebolleke's *Links Rechts*.

German Music Championships will be back in Celle on September 5, 2026!

Recaps:

Premier Class: <https://recaps.competitionsuite.com/e1232deb-809e-4dd9-915f-baa36cf16e7d.htm>

Junior Class:



Concert Class: https://recaps.competitionsuite.com/96d30cb3-7ef9-4e32-861a-cde49f7d28d7.htm?utm_source=chatgpt.com ■



Around the



by Michael Carlson
Drum Corps World staff
michael.carlson@mac.com



drum corps world

Without question, the 2025 drum corps season proved to be one of the most exciting summers in years! Barely catching our proverbial breaths, the activity is already jumping into full gear preparing for the new season. To stay up to date, this edition includes news of upcoming clinics, recruiting events and announced design teams.

Before we get started, I want to honor a friend, writer/photographer, drum corps enthusiast Pat Chagnon. Her recent loss resonates throughout the drum corps community. Pat is best known for her tireless energy and selfless service for all things Troopers.

We were drum corps friends for over three decades. Although the Troopers remained her first love, she also carried a passion for DCI Division II/III and DCI Open Class corps. Especially in the II/III days; while writing for *Drum Corps World*, we traded information on the different corps and season highlights to watch out for. Pat, you are greatly missed, but your legacy will always remain.

Let's look at what's going on across the DCI World Class as the corps put recruiting efforts into full swing

The 2026 design team for **The Academy** (below, Hans Kloppert) brings back several familiar faces for the Arizona corps. The lineup includes Brian Murphy (drill supervisor/drill designer), John Max McFarland (program coordinator/percussion & audio design), Richard L. Saucedo (music designer/brass arranger), Jared Littleton (color guard co-caption head), Roxy Lazaro (color guard co-caption head), and Robert Peterson (assist drill designer).

The corps' (Hans Kloppert) new season audition events include a full-corps audition camp on the weekend of December 5-7 at Casa Grande Union High School in Casa Grande, AZ; December 20 for brass, percussion and color guard at Foothill High School in Henderson, NV; December 21 for brass, percussion and color guard at Redwood High School in Visalia, CA; and January 4 for brass, percussion and color guard at Summer Creek High School in Houston, TX. Visit www.arizonaacademy.org for more information.

The **Blue Devils** (top of next page, Hans Kloppert) 2026 auditions are already underway. Future auditions





are scheduled for November 2 for front ensemble at Riverside City College in Riverside, CA; November 9 for front ensemble at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL; November 14 for battery and front ensemble in Indianapolis, IN; November 16 for brass and front ensemble at Stoney Point High School in Round Rock, TX; November 28-30 for all sections at Los Medanos College in Pittsburg, CA; December 12-14 for brass at Colony High School in Ontario, CA; and December 14 for color guard at Colony High School in Ontario, CA. Visit www.bluedevils.org for more information.

Blue Knights (below, Hans Kloppert) are excited to announce the return of the design team from last season. This creative troupe



includes Tanner Leonardo (sound designer), Jessica Glasgow (creative director), Jed Weeks (program coordinator), Jeff Ausdemore (percussion designer), Leslie Gilreath (brass designer) and Noe Gomez (visual designer).

Registration is available for the 2026 auditions. The busy schedule of events includes November 16 for



brass, percussion and color guard in Dallas, TX; November 21-23 for all captions at Adams City High School in Commerce City, CO; November 30 for brass, percussion and color guard in Houston, TX; December 6 for percussion at Plainfield Middle School in Indianapolis, IN; December 7 for brass and battery in San Antonio, TX; December 13 for brass in Florida; December 13 for brass, percussion and color guard in Japan; December 14 for brass, battery and color guard at Arcadia High School in Arcadia, CA; and December 19-21 for all captions at Adams City High School in Commerce City, CO. Visit www.ascendperformingarts.org for more information.

There is excitement in the **Blue Stars'** (left, Hans Kloppert) camp with the return of last season's design team. The lineup includes Michael Shapiro (artistic director/color guard caption supervisor and designer), Andrew Markworth (music and sound composer/arranger), Kevin Ford (drill designer), Jim Wunderlich (music advisor) and Kris Gailbreath (choreographer/movement specialist).

The 2026 Blue Stars experience starts at the following audition events. November 23 for all sections at Boone County Fairgrounds in Lebanon, IN; November 29 for brass and percussion at McNeil High School in Austin, TX; November 30 for brass at Amon Carter Riverside High School in Fort Worth, TX; December 7 for color guard at Dallas-Fort Worth, TX; December 7 for brass at Williams Field High School in Gilbert, AZ; and December

13 for brass and battery at Nishimachi International School in Minato City, Japan. Visit www.bluestars.org for more information.

In exciting news, the **Bluecoats** (below, *Hans Kloppert*) will kick off their 2026 season in California as part of their 12-state national tour. This is their first West Coast tour since 2009. "Techniques & Material Packets" are available on the Bluecoats' Web site to help prepare for the audition camps. The scheduled camps are for brass, percussion and color guard. The dates include November 22-23 at Prosper High School in Prosper, TX; November 29-30 at Fairless High School in Navarre, OH; December 7 at Milton High School in Milton, GA; December 7 at Arcadia High School in Arcadia, CA. Visit www.bluecoats.com for more information.



Audition interest forms are live on the **Boston Crusaders'** (below, *Raymond Fudge*) Web site. Signing up will provide applicants with the latest information regarding audition dates, locations and pricing. But wait, there's more! Participating individuals will also receive audition tips, tricks and other updates. The audition packets contain the music required for the

audition, as well as excerpts from their 2025 production, "Boom!"

In other news, the Boston corps is accepting applications for an audio engineer and an audio intern for the coming season. They are also seeking qualified members for the 2026 media team. The open positions include short-form content creators, videographers and video editors. Interested individuals can apply for these positions on the corps' Web



site. Visit www.bostoncrusaders.org for more information.

Carolina Crown (right, *Hans Kloppert*) is excited to announce the addition of Keith Potter (artistic director) and Rosie Miller Queen (visual design advisor) to the 2026 design team. Potter and Queen bring a wealth of success in the marching arts activity, as well as former positions on the Crown staff.

Sign-ups for the 2026 auditions are available on the corps' Web site. Scheduled auditions include November 15 for battery auditions in Indianapolis, IN; November 16 for color guard



in Indianapolis, IN; November 21-23 for all sections in Fort Mill, SC; November 29 for color guard in Florida; December 19-21 for brass and percussion in Fort Mill, SC; and January 16-18 for brass and percussion (callback audition) in Fort Mill, SC. Visit www.carolinacrown.org for more information.

The 2026 auditions for **The Cavaliers** (right, Hans Kloppert) are a blend of live and virtual audition options. The percussion audition will be virtual, with submissions due not later than midnight, December 14. Individuals selected for callbacks are required to attend the January callback camp in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Color guard auditions are also virtual only, with submissions due no later than midnight, December 27th. The corps will announce their callback information later.

The brass section offers both live and virtual audition options. The virtual submissions are due no later than midnight on November 30th.

The current schedule of live events includes November 2 at Jacksonville State University, AL; November 2 at the University of Houston, TX; November 9 at the University of Central Florida; November 9 at Purdue University, IN; November 23 at Naperville Central High School; November 23 at Saginaw High School, TX; and a full camp the weekend of December 12-14 in the

Dallas-Fort Worth area. Watch the Web site for audition events in the following locations: Austin, California, Central Illinois, Colorado, Georgia, New Jersey and Japan. Visit www.cavaliers.org for more information.



Audition packets are available for the 2026 **Colts** (above, Chris Maher), "All students who wish to be considered for Colts membership must enroll in the Red Zone." The audition packet includes Soundslice training tools with on-line exercises containing a video training aid to guide students through the specifics of each lesson. Visit www.colts.org for more information.

Crossmen (left, Hans Kloppert) recently announced their 2026 design team. The line-up includes Michael Hardiek (design coordinator), John

Meehan (music coordinator), Mike Huestis (percussion composer), Dan Morrison (design consultant), Mason

Daffinee (visual designer), Rachel Montañez (guard and visual designer), Wes Pendergrass (visual coordinator), Connor Smethers (choreographer) and Al Chez (design consultant).

Sign-ups are available for the 2026 auditions. Upcoming dates include December 19-21 at La Vernia High School in La Vernia, TX. Visit www.crossmen.org for more information.

Genesis (right, Chris Maher) is preparing for the new season with a series of color guard clinics. The Texas clinics kick off November 16 at Nimitz High School in Houston and Rockwall High School in Dallas. Watch for the dates of addition clinics in the areas of San Antonio and the Rio Grande Valley.

Audition dates include November 28-30 in Austin and December 19-21 in Austin. Registration is available on the Genesis Web site.

The corps is also excited to announce the return of its 2025 conductor team for the new season. This talented lineup includes Conductor Ariella Calili, along with drum majors Dakken Thurston, Blaine Isom, Tyler Stafford and Mika



Glines. Visit www.genesisdbc.org for more information.

Signu-ps for the **Madison Scouts**

(left, Chris Maher) 2026 season are available on the Web site. A series of one-day events will provide participants with the option of attending on an experience-only basis or to audition. Taking part in one of these events is recommended before the December camp weekend, but it's not required.

The one-day satellite camps include November 23 for brass, percussion and color guard at the Montgomery County

Fairgrounds in Dayton, OH; November 23 for color guard at Union High School in Union, NJ; November 30 for brass and percussion at Pope High School in Marietta, GA; and December 7 for brass, percussion and color guard in Texas. The full corps weekend audition camp will take place on December 19-21 in Milwaukee, WI. Visit www.madisonscouts.org for more information.

The **Mandarins** (right, Chris Maher) are





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seeking creative, qualified individuals for the 2026 media team. Applicants should have skills in one or more of the following areas: photographer, videographer/video editing, graphic designer or social media content creator. Interested individuals can apply at www.mandarins.org/jobs.

The creative imaginations behind the success of last year's production, "If I Must Fall . . ." will return for the 2026 season. The design team includes Becca Anderson (creative director), Ian Grom (music coordinator/arranger), John Mapes (battery arranger), Trent Gronewold (front ensemble arranger), Vince Oliver (brass arranger/composer), Peter Beckhart (visual designer), and Mike Anderson (design team consultant).

The following are the Mandarins' audition dates and locations: November 22-23 for all sections in Texas; November 29 for all sections in Indianapolis, IN; December 5-7 for all sections in Northern California; December 12-14 for brass and percussion at La Cañada High School in La Cañada Flintridge, CA; December 13-14 for color guard in Northern California. Visit www.mandarins.org for more information.

Registration and audition packets are available for the 2026 **Music City** (left, Chris Maher). The auditions will take place in Nashville, TN. The



scheduled events include December 5-7 for all sections, January 16-18 for all sections, February 20-22 for brass only, March 20-22 for brass only and April 24-26 for all sections. Visit

www.musiccitydrumcorps.org for more information.

Signu-ps for **Pacific Crest** (right, Russell Tanakaya) auditions are on the corps' Web site. The



events include November 9 for brass and battery at Dahlstrom Middle School in Buda, TX; and December 6-7 for all sections at Diamond Bar High School in Diamond Bar, CA. Visit www.pacific-crest.org for more information.

The extensive audition schedule for the 2026 **Phantom Regiment** (left, Russell Tanakaya) includes November 2 for all sections in Irvine, CA; November

2 for brass and percussion in Rockford, IL; November 9 for all sections in Dallas, TX; November 9 for brass and percussion in Atlanta, GA; November 16 for all sections in Indianapolis, IN; November 16 for all sections in O'ahu, HI; November 23 for all sections in



Houston, TX; November 30 for brass and percussion in Austin, TX; and November 30 in brass in Walsh, MS.

They are hiring members for the Phan Shop for the 2026 tour. In addition, Phantom is looking for audio engineers and interns for the new season. Interested individuals can apply at regiment.org/jobs.

In other news, the 2026 Phantom Regiment Alumni Corps will field up to 620 members this summer. That should be enough to blow the roof off of Lucas Oil Stadium. Visit www.regiment.org for more information.

Subscribing to the old adage, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," the **Santa Clara Vanguard** (above, Hans Kloppert) is thrilled to announce the return of their exceptional design team, the caption leadership and the corps management staff for the 2026 season.

The audition schedule is quite extensive for the new season, with several one-day satellite events. The color guard schedule includes November 2 in Southern California; November 22 in Austin, TX; November 23 in Western Carolina; December 5-7 in North Texas and December 13 in Japan.



The brass audition schedule includes November 2 in Idaho; November 8 in Southern California; November 9 in Santa Clara, CA; November 22 in Austin, TX; November 23 in Oklahoma; November 23 in North Texas; November 23 in Western Carolina; November 30 in Houston, TX; and December 13 in Japan.

The percussion audition schedule includes November 9 in Southern California; November 14 in Indianapolis, IN; November 16 in Austin, TX; and December 5-7 in North Texas. Visit www.scvanguard.org for more information.

The **Seattle Cascades** (left, Russell Tanakaya) will celebrate 60 years this season. Auditions will kick off December 12-14 for all sections at

Vernonia High School in Vernonia, OR. Of special note, the new season will see the return of the cymbal line. Visit www.seattlecascades.org for more information.

The **Spartans** (top of next page,, Hans Kloppert) introduced the 2026 caption heads who will lead the New Hampshire corps into their first year as a DCI World Class corps. The lineup includes Sean Coffey (visual), Vic Lee



(conducting), Samantha Logan (front ensemble), Brian McCulloch (brass), Kate McKinnon (color guard), Grace Murphy (battery), Coleman Moore (audio) and Tony Rideout (ensemble coordinator).

Spartans auditions begin the weekend of December 5-7 at Fitchburg High School in Fitchburg, MA, and December 19-21 at Westford Academy in Westford, MA. Visit www.spartansdbc.org for more information.

Spirit of Atlanta (below, Hans Kloppert) announced its 50th Anniversary Creative Team. The talented lineup includes Giles Oulette (program coordinator), Michael Martin

(creative director and brass arranger), Adam Wiencken (battery arranger), Andy Filipiak (front ensemble arranger and audio design), Richard Hinshaw (visual design), Daniel Wiles (design consultant), Bradley Klemmensen (visual design) and Korey Craven (color guard design and caption head).

The following is a list of audition dates for the upcoming season. The events include November 2 for brass and percussion at Oviedo High School in Orlando, FL; November 9 for brass and percussion at Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, FL; November 16 for brass and percussion at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC; November 23 for all sections at Northgate High School in Newnan, GA; December 7 for all sections at Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, GA; December 14 for all sections at Southmoore High School in Oklahoma City, OK; and December 14 for all sections at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, TN. Visit www.spiritofatlanta.org for more information.

Always at the forefront of annual production announcements, on DCI finals night, the **Troopers** (right, Chris Maher) posted their 2026 program, "Into Darkness."



Leading the charge into the new season is the return of last year's iconic creative crew. The 2026 design team includes Tim Snyder (artistic director/brass arranger), Andrew Ebert (drill designer), Chris McCarthy (visual coordinator/choreography), Paul Rennick (percussion designer/arranger), Sandi Rennick (percussion designer/arranger), Justin Shelton (music coordinator/sound design) and Jason Robb (production coordinator).

Auditions will kick off the weekend of November 22-23 for color guard and percussion at South Garland High School in Garland, TX. On November 29-30 for brass, percussion and color guard at Eaton High School in Eaton, CO; December 7 for all sections at Rock Ridge High School in Ashburn, VA; December 13 for brass at South Garland High School in Garland, TX. Of special note, the Troopers recently added December 20 at Guayanilla, Puerto Rico, for all sections. Visit www.troopersdrumcorps.org for more information.

Let's look at the activities going on in DCI Open Class

The **7th Regiment** (below, Joseph Butz) recently announced the return of last year's design team for the 2026 season. The lineup includes Alec Smith (visual designer/program coordinator), Alessandra Greco (color guard

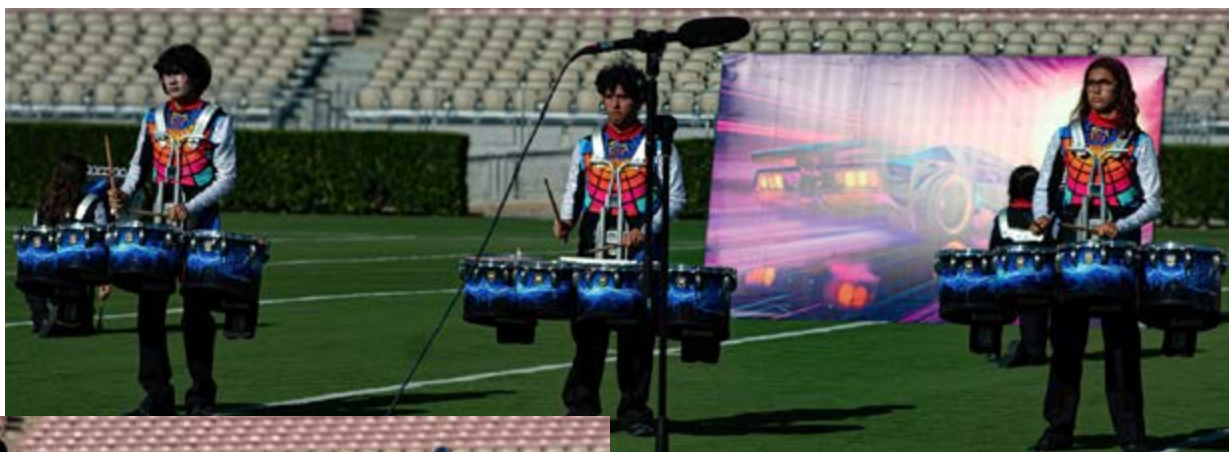


designer/visual design coordinator), Dan Shinohara (battery arranger), Sean Ferguson (brass arranger), and Seth Lampert (front ensemble arranger/sound designer). Visit www.seventhregiment.org for more information.

Blue Devils B (below, Jim

Claytor) recently posted their audition schedule for the 2026 season. The color guard auditions will take place in Southern California on December 6. The first

full corps audition weekend will be on the weekend of December 12-14 at Concord High School in Concord, CA. A callback camp for brass, percussion and drum majors, as well as additional auditions, will be the weekend of



January 23-25. Finally, the color guard callbacks and auditions will be held on January 25. Visit www.bluedevils.org for more information.

Exciting news is coming out of the Blue Devils organization. The Concord group appointed Matt Sieve, the previous director of **Blue Devils C** (left, Russell Tanakaya) to the new role of Director, Open Class Corps. The full-time position combines the director positions of BDB and BDC under one leader. Visit www.bluedevils.org for more information.

bluedevelops.org for more information.

The audition packets for the 2026 **Columbians** (right, Hans Kloppert) are now available on their Web site. Audition locations include Portland, OR, Tri-Cities, WA, and Spokane, WA. The specific dates and locations will be announced soon. Visit www.columbiansdrumcorps.org for more information.

Gold (below, Chris Maher) the 2025 DCI Open Class Silver Medal winners, will conduct its full corps auditions at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Eastvale, CA, on December 13-14 and January 24-25. Sign-ups for these events are available on the corps' Web site.



Web site.

In other news, the design team for the new season includes James Rocillo (program designer/creative director), Scott Director (music composer), Steven Estudillo (visual designer), Jimmy Nguyen (front ensemble/sound designer), Steven Herman (percussion designer) and Anthony Garcia (color guard designer/choreographer). Visit www.goldyoutharts.org for more information.

Getting an early start on the 2026 season, **Golden Empire** (below, Jim Claytor) recently announced upcoming brass and percussion auditions at Bakersfield College in Bakersfield, CA. The dates include



December 14, January 4t and January 25. The organization will announce color guard auditions in the near future. Visit www.geperformingarts.org for more information.

After taking a year away from competition, the **Guardians** (right, Russell Tanakaya, 2024) recently announced their new admin team. The lineup includes Bill Greenberg (corps director), Natalie Wilson (assistant corps director), Mar' Cordric D. Collins (director of design and education)



and Houston Staveley (quartermaster and transportation manager). We are looking forward to seeing the corps back on the field. Visit www.guardiansdbc.org for more



information.

Heat Wave (left, Ron Wyatt) announced its dates for the new season's auditions. The first weekend camp is November 22-23 in the Orlando area. The 2026 Heat Wave interest form is available on their Web site. Visit www.heat-wave.org for more information.

Impulse (below, Jim Claytor) enjoyed a successful summer and is now focused on a stronger 2026 season. Starting January 3, the SoCal corps will conduct one-day auditions

for all sections at Valley Christian High School in Cerritos, CA. Visit www.impulseyoutharts.org for more information.

Registration is live on **Les Stentors** (top right, Joseph Butz) Web site for the 2026 season. Visit www.stentors.net for more information.

Memphis Blues (below, Facebook) is proud to announce Stephen Cook as the new corps director. A former member of Carolina Crown, Cook will lead the corps into its first year as a member of DCI



Open Class. He also serves as the assistant band director at Ardmore High School in Ardmore, AL.

The corps is taking sign-ups for auditions at Houston High School in Germantown, TN, on December 5-7. This

event is for brass and percussion. Visit www.memphisbluesdbc.org for more information.

The **Raiders** (top left on next page, Hans Kloppert) are excited to announce Logan Gupta as their new brass caption head. His drum corps background includes the Bushwackers and The Cadets, and as an instructor for the Raiders since 2019. He also serves as the director of the marching band at Burlington Township High School. Visit www.raidersdbc.org for more information.

River City Rhythm (top right on next page, Chris Maher) recently announced their 2026 creative team. The returning and new members include John Meissner (creative director), Pat Miller (visual designer), Jeremy



Thompson (brass arranger), Eric Shriver (battery arranger) Frankie Rice (front ensemble arranger and soundscape designer) and Rebekah Salas (scenic designer). Visit www.rivercityrhythm.org for more information.

One of the newest DCI Open Class corps, **Zephyrus** (above, Russell Tanakaya), is now taking registrations for the 2026 season on its Web page. Visit www.zephyrusarts.org for more information.

Let's take a look at the activities going on around the All-age community

The interest forms for the 2026 **Atlanta CV** (above, Hans Kloppert) are now available on the corps website. Visit www.atlantacv.org for more information.



The **Bushwackers** (left, Raymond Fudge) are proud to announce their 2026 design team. The creative lineup includes Jim Dugan (executive director), Lauryn Heller Griffin (program coordinator and director of color guard), Andrew Monteiro (music coordinator), Jamey Thompson (visual designer), Dave Dumont (director of percussion and battery arranger), Eddie Griffin (ensemble coordinator), Jesse Valencia (front ensemble arranger), Zack Travis (brass arranger), Sal Azzara (sound designer), Jaycee Wilson (color guard lead choreographer), and Tony Rideout (visual and

program consultant).

The 2026 auditions are scheduled for November 29-30 at Central Bucks South High School in Warrington, PA. Visit www.bushwackersdc.org for more information.



The **Cincinnati Tradition**

(left, Chris Maher) announced the return of last year's design team for the 2026 season. The lineup includes Kendra Wendeln (program coordinator and drill design), Michael Carpenter (artistic coordinator), Michael Miller (brass arranger), Alex Beltran (battery arranger), CJ Barrow (front ensemble arranger and sound design) and Cody Matson (graphic design).

In addition, the corps introduced the caption head team. This exceptional team includes Michael

Carpenter (color guard), Andrew Whitman (brass), Aaron Farris (percussion), and Haley Harrington (visual). Welcome to the new season!

The corps is seeking a front ensemble manager for immediate hire. E-mail a letter of interest and resumé to director@cincinnatiatradition.org. Registration for the new season is available on the corps' Web site. Visit www.cincinnatiatradition.org for more information.

The 2026 interest forms are available for the **Columbus Saints** (right, Hans Kloppert). They will post the audition schedule in the near future. Visit www.columbussaints.org for information.



Fusion Core

(left, Chris Maher) is celebrating its first anniversary in Florida with the announcements of Evan Black as their new color guard designer and caption head, and Anthony Parisi as the new staff coordinator.



The 2026 design team includes Adam Tharp (program coordinator), Chris Creswell (brass design), Mike Marino (battery design), Jacob Behr (front ensemble design), Riley Jorgensen (ensemble coordinator), Evan Black (guard design), Lindsey Schuller (drill design), and David Bruni (design consultant).

The 2026 interest form is live on the corps Webs site. Visit www.fusioncore.org for more information.

Celebrating their 99th anniversary season, the **Gouvernaires** (right, Chris Maher) are actively recruiting for the new season. The 2025 Class A champions will kick off the new season on December 14 at St. Peter Middle School. Registration is available on the We bsite.

The corps announced the new season leadership, which includes Matthew Sanders (corps director), Miranda Merrill (assistant director), Mike Hanzelka (artistic director), Will Frame (brass caption head), Lee Krueger (percussion caption head), Alli Larkin (color guard caption head), and Jesse Talbot (visual caption head).

The creative talents of the 2026 design team include Ward Miller (brass arranger), Mike Hardiek (drill designer), Lee Krueger (battery arranger), Hayden Hoiium (front ensemble manager), Coleman Moore (sound designer), Molly Hanzelka (production designer & color guard supervisor), and Larry Pawlowski (show consultant). Visit www.gouvernaires.org for more information.



The **Hawthorne Caballeros** (left, Raymond Fudge) will welcome in their 80th season with an open house at Passaic County Technical Institute in Wayne, NJ, on November 29-30. Registration is currently open and allows payment of the open house fees. In paying the fee, on-line, applicants will receive the audition packet information. Visit www.hawthornecaballeros.org for information.

The **Connecticut Hurricanes** (below, Raymond Fudge) recently announced their 2026 design team. This creative lineup includes Dan Schank (program coordinator and battery arranger), Key Poulan (brass arranger), David Paradis (front ensemble arranger), Bryson Teel (sound designer), Conor Kovatch (guard designer) and Matt Harwell (visual designer).

Sign-ups are available for the corps' open house on November 30 at Amity Regional High School in Woodbridge, CT. The event is not an audition but a chance to experience what being

The **Connecticut Hurricanes** (below,



a Hurricane is all about. The corps will cover the auditions over several rehearsals. Visit www.cthurricanes.org for more information.

Between staff announcements and winter events, **Northern Lights** (top of next page, Chris Maher) is charging into the new season. They start off with three pre-season clinics, November 9 with a potential member's on-line seminar; November 16t with a percussion clinic; and November 23 with a brass and color guard clinic at Belding High School in Belding, MI. The audition schedule includes events on December 6 and





20, with a callback camp on January 3.

They are also excited to announce their 2026 design team of John Meehan (design supervisor), Dr. Thomas Lukowicz (brass design), Will Gordillo (percussion design), Jacob Kamradt (percussion design), Cory Merfeld (color guard design) and Kyle Buford (drill design). Visit www.northernlightsmi.org for more information.

The **Reading Buccaneers** (bottom left on previous page, Raymond Fudge). Welcomes back many of its designers and

education leaders, as well as introduces new members to the team. The 2026 lineup includes Paul Cullen (staff and music coordinator), Nicholas Tavares (artistic coordinator), Steve Rinda (visual designer and coordinator), Dr. Mark Lortz (brass arranger), Travis Peterman (battery arranger and ensemble consultant), Dr. Mark Eichenberger (front ensemble arranger), Sam Fleming (sound designer), Mike Tanzos (brass caption head), Brand Davis (brass caption manager),



Amy Dulaney (visual caption head), Lydia Beam (choreographer), Mitch Meussner (color guard caption head), Dr. Tyler Wales (percussion caption head), Sean Moran (percussion assistant caption head), Ben Kern (front ensemble manager) and Reed Kimmel (audio caption manager).

Technique packets for brass, percussion, color guard, and visual are

available by registering for the Buccaneers' 2026 season. Visit www.readingbuccaneers.org for more information.



Audition camp registration is open for **Rogues Hollow Regiment** (second from top left, Joseph Butz). (The event will take place on November 15-16.

In addition, the corps is seeking qualified members for its 2026 staff. Visit www.rhrdbc.org for more information.

Register now to receive **Sunrisers** (below left, Joseph Butz) information for the upcoming open house and 2026 tour.

Visit www.sunrisersdbc.org for more information.

The **White Sabers** (above, Joseph Butz) 2026 season interest form is available on the corps' Web site. Visit www.whitesabers.org for more information.



Let's look at the activities going on within the SoundSport community

Carolina Gold (top left on next page, Facebook) is proud to announce three new members in leadership roles. A familiar face around the drum corps activity, Chris Green is the new program coordinator. Don Dohm comes onboard as the education coordinator, and Jon Gifford is the new staff coordinator. Visit www.carolinagold.org for more information.



Eclipse (below right, Chris Maher) is excited to welcome De' Vantē Land as its new corps director. He is an aged-out member of Spirit of Atlanta and has spent several years as a visual instructor. Welcome onboard! Visit www.eclipsedbc.org for more information.

Audition materials are available for the **Boise Gems**.right, Donald Chinn) Visit www.boisegems.org for more information.

Membership signups are open for **IMPACT's** (below left, Facebook) 2026 season. Their new season open house will be on



Sunday, December 7, at the Lake County Shrine Club in Tavares, FL. Visit www.impactdrumcorps.org for more information.

The **Sky Ryders** (below right, Lillie Rose) enjoyed a successful summer of performances and have eyes on expanding their



program in 2026. The Interest Form is live on the website for the new season. Auditions open in December and extend through April 2026. The events include December 6 for color guard in Hutchinson, KS; December 6 for color guard in Kansas City, KS; January 10 for all sections in Emporia, KS; January 31 for all sections in Holliday, TX; February 21 for all sections in Wichita, KS; March 28 for all sections in Overland, KS; and April 11 for all sections in Hollister, MO. Visit www.skyryders.com for more information.

To keep up with its growth, **Sonus Brass Theater** (right, Chris Maher) is currently seeking qualified instructional staff members and support staff/volunteer help. Interested individuals can request more information by emailing sonusbrasstheater@gmail.com. Visit www.linktr.ee/sonusbrass for more information. ■



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2025 Midwest Combine Experience Camp set for Sunday, October 26, 2025 in Oak Creek, WI

Back for a third year, the Midwest Combine Experience Camp is designed to give aspiring drum corps members an easy, no-pressure way to learn about the drum and bugle corps activity. Jointly hosted by the seven Midwest corps, instructors and administrators from the Blue Stars, The Cavaliers, Colt Cadets, Colts, Madison Scouts, Phantom Regiment and River City Rhythm will be on hand to make it a fun, educational introduction to the activity. Here's what you can expect from the day:

Instruction from some of the best brass, guard, percussion, and visual staff members in the activity -- an opportunity to learn about the activity in general and how you can join a group for the 2026 season or beyond

A chance to talk directly to the leaders of the 7 Midwest corps and learn about their unique organizations -- directors from each corps will answer any questions you may have about their audition process and how you can become a DCI member.

Corps' merchandise will also be available. The cost is just \$60 and includes a full day of instruction, Midwest Combine Experience shirt, Midwest Combine sticker and lunch.



WHERE? Oak Creek High School, 340 East Puetz Road, Oak Creek, WI 53154

WHEN? Sunday, October 26, 2025 -- 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

HOW much does it cost? -- \$60

WHAT's PROVIDED? -- Full day of instruction, Midwest Combine Experience t-shirt, Midwest Combine sticker, lunch

WHO SHOULD ATTEND? Students from the greater Milwaukee area

that love performing and would like an introductory experience to the drum corps activity from some of the best educators working with the Midwest corps.

What will the daily schedule look like?

- 8:00 AM 9:00 AM -- registration
- 9:00 AM –12:00 PM -- sectional instruction
- 12:00 PM -- 12:45 PM -- Lunch
- 12:45 – 3:15 PM — sectionals instruction
- 3:15 PM – 4:00 PM -- Q&A with the corps directors
- 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM -- info with individual corps

Is this an audition camp, and will membership agreements be offered? This experience is not designed as an audition camp. The purpose is to introduce you to the drum corps activity with instruction and information provided by the Midwest drum corps. At the end of the event, it's entirely possible for an attendee to be invited to one or more audition camps of the seven corps.

Is there any transportation or housing provided? -No. This event is designed for attendees to drive in and out. No airport transportation or housing is provided. While it is possible to fly in for the event, you would be responsible to get to the camp location on your own (Uber, Lyft, carpool, etc.).

Can parents attend the event? Yes, parents are invited to observe the events. There is also a parents meeting in the morning to answer their questions about the drum and bugle corps activity. Parents will be on their own for lunch.

For which percussion instruments are you providing instruction? Instruction will be provided on the following percussion instruments: battery-snare, battery-tenors, battery-bass drum, battery- cymbals, front ensemble-keyboard.

Is equipment provided? Brass players should bring a bell front marching horn, if possible. There will be some brass available to use for the day, especially tubas, . Quantities may be limited. Please indicate on the registration form if you need an instrument.

Battery players should bring marching sticks and practice pads. Drums will be provided. Front ensemble players should bring their own mallets, if possible. Color guard students should bring their own gloves and knee pads, if they prefer. Practice flags will be provided.

Is there a conductor track at the event. Yes, we will again have a conductor track for the 2025 event.

Do I have to register in advance or can I pay at the door? It is possible to show up and register on-site the day of the event.. However you are strongly encouraged to register in advance. Registering in advance allows us to better plan for t-shirt sizes, meals, instruction, et. While we will have extra shirts made to account for some walk up registrations, T-shirts will be given to people that register in advance first. It's possible we could run out of shirts if there are a large number of students who show up the day of the event.

Will there be souvenir merchandise available for sale? Yes. Corps will have some souvenir merchandise available for purchase at the event. ■



Spirit of Atlanta

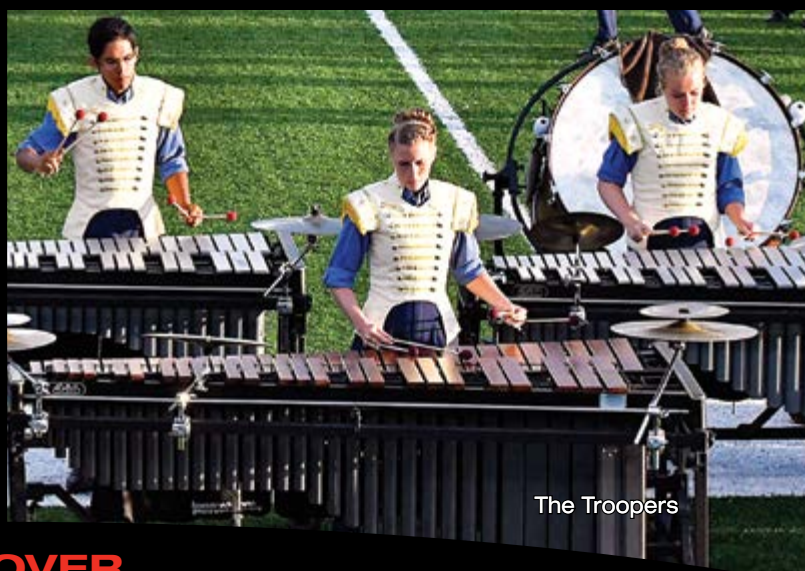
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Pat Chagnon – Remembering a Troopers icon

by Michael Gough, Troopers Executive Director

In 1987, Patricia Anne Chagnon, a native of Massachusetts, arrived in Casper, WY, to join the ranks of one of the most renowned drum and bugle corps in the world. It was the final year under the direction of legendary founder Jim Jones -- the year following a finals performance that would be the corps' last for over two decades.



Pat only marched one year (below), but that experience clearly moved her. She believed deeply that the corps could rise to even greater heights. This rookie learned quickly what “honor, loyalty and dedication” truly meant -- that they weren’t just words or a slogan, but principles to live by and care for.

Like many who have marched over the last 30 years,

I met Pat somewhere along the trail. She was always working behind the scenes, offering help wherever her talents could serve. She picked up members from airports, drove them to rehearsals and shows, and spoke of Troopers past like a mythical and wondrous land we were now a part of. One by one, she turned countless Troopers into lifelong believers, workers, board members and even executive directors.

Pat Chagnon started the Web site (TroopersDrumCorps.org) before it was common for organizations to have one at all. In fact, it was among the very first drum corps Web sites in existence and, in those early days, it often won awards for its excellence.

As Dean Westman once said, “The connections you make with each other will define who you are and your experience on this Earth.” Pat lived that truth every day. She knew that connections to the past, present and future were key to building a strong culture and a sustainable future.

Before social media -- which, one could argue, has achieved the opposite of its goal of bringing people together -- Pat started message boards on the Troopers’ Web site that kept everyone connected. She moderated those boards for years, ensuring civil discussion and quietly teaching us how to interact with respect. She was a founding member of the Troopers Alumni Association, helped draft its bylaws, donated to countless fund-raising efforts and even marched with the Troopers in the 2001 Presidential Inauguration Parade.

In 2006, Mike Ottoes called Pat to inform her that a press release needed to go out -- the corps was shutting down. Despite the shock and heartbreak, she stayed at her post, ever the volunteer and guardian of the Troopers’ brand. From that moment on, Pat was always there: taking photos, capturing moments of the corps’ return in 2007.

With Mike Ottoes at the helm and the late Corps Director Fred Morris, who we lost last year, Pat Chagnon shepherded the Troopers’ message to audiences and young people alike. “Legends never die” was the motto that year. I was fortunate to work alongside Pat while filming the documentary “America’s Core.” It was no accident that she was one of the key people I interviewed to get the story right.

In 2009, while filming the follow-up documentary, “Hell Bent for Victory,” I’ll never forget the overwhelming



feeling of the corps making finals for the first time in 23 years. That night, the front page of the Web site changed to a mock newspaper, the headline in huge bold letters: "FINALS!"

After that, I moved on with my life -- or so I thought. But in 2016, the mythology Pat had instilled in me called again. I soon found myself back in Casper, working as marketing director, handling many of the same responsibilities Pat once guided. The first thing I needed was photos of the 2016 Troopers. Believe it or not, there was only one person who had them, Pat Chagnon.

Over the years I was continually amazed by how much Pat still did for individual members, just as she had done for me and so many others. And none of us could have predicted that her crowning achievement was yet to come.

In 2018, we were preparing for the Troopers' 60th Anniversary Celebration in Casper. At the time there was plenty of frustration that we didn't have any alumni performance planned. So Mike Ottoes and I scheduled a meeting at the bingo hall for anyone interested in discussing the idea of an alumni corps. Honestly, it was meant to calm the storm so I could focus the organization's energy on more positive things.

But the . . . Pat showed up!

After about an hour of discussion, she sat to my left, slapped her hand on the table, and proclaimed, "I'll do it!" In that moment, hundreds of lives were changed.

One of my biggest frustrations in life is when people say they're going to do something but never take action -- sometimes not even the second step. We've all been guilty of that at times. But when Pat Chagnon said she was going to do something . . . look out.

The first few years of the alumni corps started small, but then Pat had a brilliant idea inspired by what other organizations had done -- allow alumni from other groups to participate. She named it the Troopers Legacy Corps -- and her legacy was born.

Pat was inducted into the Troopers Hall of Fame in 2020 and went on to lead the Troopers Legacy Corps to its ultimate goal, performing at the Drum Corps International World Championships on semi-finals night. A dream many considered impossible, but she made it happen.

Within this historic organization, Pat carved out a place where people could come together and share in the

experience of being a Trooper. She gave people the gift of belonging. She stayed the course in our worst years and in our best. She embodied the highest ideals and standards of what it means to be a Trooper -- and defined what it means to be an alum.

We live in divisive times, often for no good reason at all. But amid the chaos of the modern world, this incredible person brought people from all walks of life together. She proved that when we put down our devices, look each other in the eye and share a hug, we aren't so different after all. When we aspire to act a little more like she did, we can achieve greatness . . . together.

Pat Chagnon is an icon and through us, her legacy will continue. ■



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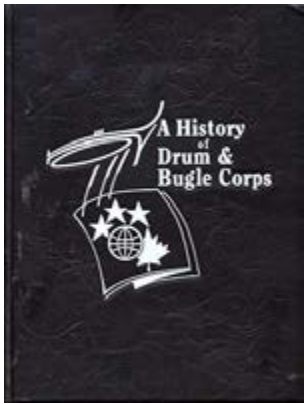


“A History of drum and bugle corps,” volume 1

“You may now enter the field for competition.” If that line still gives you chills, this is your book. *A History of Drum and Bugle Corps, Volume 1* is a definitive 432-page chronicle with 1,000+ photos, competition scores from 1921–2001, and a master list of North American corps. From *Drum Corps World* (since 1971), it preserves the evolution of the marching art -- part reference, part time machine -- now on Amazon Kindle.

“A history of drum and bugle corps,” volume 2

“You may now enter the field for competition.” If that line still gives you chills, this is your book. *A History of Drum and Bugle Corps, Volume 2* delivers 1,200+ photos, profiles of 86 junior, senior (all-age) and exhibition corps, plus coverage of international circuits -- spanning eight decades. A must-have companion to Volume 1, it preserves the stories, images and innovations that defined the marching art. Now on Amazon Kindle.



“The Art of Drum Corps World” is a 376-page visual time capsule of the marching arts—1,000+ cartoons, illustrations, collages, and ad art drawn from nearly four decades of *Drum Corps World*. Includes the beloved Christmas covers (1972–1980) and features work by 16 artists, with notes on Paul McCusker, Don Daber and Joe Provenzano. Originally published in 2010, now on Amazon Kindle -- a perfect companion to the History volumes.



2017: “Around the drum corps world” — Photo yearbook showcases a global season through images curated from thousands shot by 21 contributors during the season. See DCI World/Open, DCI All-Age (then DCA), Alumni, SoundSport, Mini-Corps, DrumLine Battle, and exhibition units plus international corps. A vibrant, annual keepsake that captures the people, performances and moments of 2017.

2018: “Around the drum corps world” — Photo yearbook showcases a global season through images curated from thousands shot by 21 contributors over the season. See DCI World/Open, DCI All-Age (then DCA), Alumni, SoundSport, Mini-Corps, DrumLine Battle, and exhibition units, plus international corps. A vibrant, annual keepsake that captures the people, performances and moments of 2018.

2019: “Around the drum corps world” — Photo yearbook showcases a global season through images curated from thousands shot by 21 contributors over the season. See DCI World/Open, DCI All-Age (then DCA), Alumni, SoundSport, Mini-Corps,

DrumLine Battle, and exhibition units—plus European, East Asian, Philippine, and Indonesian corps. A vibrant, annual keepsake that captures the people, performances, and moments of 2019. ■





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1972-1980 (part II)

Visual and percussion evolutions

by Austin Thorup, *Drum Corps World* staff (bluemanta37@gmail.com)

With the relative creative freedom allowed by Drum Corps International, member corps' color guards were granted the chance to redefine themselves. Originally militaristic carriers of their nation's flags whose entire performance centered solely around rudimental flag maneuvers and machine-like spinning of mock rifles and sabers (elements that can still be observed even today) dance choreography slowly began to be added into their routines.



While the corps that had the biggest impact on driving color guards of these early years into the modern form we know today was the 27th Lancers under the guidance of the legendary George Zingali (below and right), 1972), Gail Royer's (bottom right, with DM Rick South)

Santa Clara Vanguard introduced one of the most famous color guard routines of the era by performing the *Bottle Dance* (below) from "Fiddler on the Roof" at the 1973 championships.

Reactions to dancing in color guard were generally mixed the Santa Clara Vanguard's *Bottle Dance* was hugely popular, being repeated numerous times to thunderous applause and becoming a staple for the corps ever since.

It was a rare combination of innovation and accessibility that helped cement a baseline of credibility for choreography in drum corps that would remain in ensuing decades, even if later developments became the subject of fierce debate.





Around the same time, though, another major corps from New Jersey was far more radical than anything Don Warren's Cavaliers or the Santa Clara Vanguard were putting together.

One of the most jarring yet entertaining corps of the 1970s was the Bridgemen and their inimitable showmanship and laid back comedy. On the verge of becoming completely irrelevant by 1976, show designer

Bobby Hoffman (*far right*) and percussion arranger Dennis DeLucia (*right*) masterminded a complete overhaul of the corps. Immediately apparent with their almost knee length bright yellow overcoats. The 1976 Bridgemen shocked audiences with even

more previously unheard-of antics. T

These included having the color guard change into red leotards and dance in a chorus line and having the entire corps "faint" at the end of their show.

Under the VFW/American Legion regulations corps would be penalized for every instance of equipment touching the field.

With these radical new design choices, Hoffman sought to push back against what he referred to as judges' "tightness" in focusing on execution and showing severe reluctance toward excitement.

While not as flamboyant as Hoffman's Bridgemen (*above, Moe Knox*) in approach, Gail Royer and his Santa Clara Vanguard would also be a major contributor

toward another visual addition that has sparked controversy for generations until field props.

Strictly illegal in VFW/American Legion competition and treated with extreme wariness from the founding of DCI onward, field props were one of the biggest centers of experimentation in ensuing decades.

Gail Royer and his Santa Clara Vanguard were among the chief experimenters, famously using a maypole and embroidered hula hoops in their championship-winning production of 1978.

Another famous contemporary prop was the Canadian Seneca Optimists' (*top and right on next page*) use of a giant black-and-white parachute that briefly enveloped the entire corps. Unfortunately this was an aspect of drum corps that the Cavaliers (*above, 1977*) really did not contribute toward during the 1970', either, as they maintained a staunchly traditional style while struggling financially and competitively;

Coincidentally, the inspection process required by the VFW and American Legion was quickly and unilaterally done



away with. Another musical development and source of controversy in the drum corps activity began taking shape in the late 1970s.

Even more than visual changes, percussion underwent radical developments in the 1970s, with corps a major contributor, spearheaded by staff members Pete Simmons and Fred Sanford (below). By the decade's the standard drum corps drum line had roughly between 23-33



members, usually comprised of 6-10 snare drums, 3-5 tenor drums (nicknamed “quads” for their most famous configuration of four different-sized drums on the same mounting), 4 cymbal players, 4-6 bass drums of individual pitches, 4 marching timpani players, and 2-4 marching keyboard players (an innovation introduced by 1974).

The latter two groups of marching timpani and keyboard

players were particularly cumbersome and difficult to maneuver; while a set of four timpani drums would usually be played by just one person in a concert setting, the same task was divided between four players with one drum each.

While not always the case, marching keyboard players fared little better, as they were sometimes called upon to play concert chimes held in place by elaborate neck straps attached to outstretched metal bars that required the user to constantly lean back to prevent falling over.

This was one of many conceptual carry-overs from the traditional VFW/American Legion era, which required all instruments used by a corps to remain off the ground for the entirety of the performance.

To combat this diminishing return in

manpower and increase projection for these bulkier instruments visual designers began placing these instruments at the front of the field on the 50 yard line while still being harnessed to musicians.

Starting in the late 1970s with the allowance of timpani drums to be placed on the ground at the 50 yard line and played by one person, the stationary front ensemble (or the “pit” to borrow a concert term) was created. Most famously first taken advantage of by the Racine Kilties (left 1977, Art Luebke) in 1978, non-mobile timpani became common practice even by Royer's Santa Clara Vanguard and Warren's Cavaliers by the early 1980's, establishing a foothold for a supporting ensemble that would greatly expand in the next decade. ■



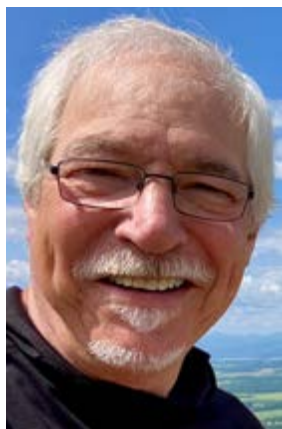
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A reset to save an old schoolhouse

text and photos by Kevin Russell, Drum Corps World staff (

July 3, 2025 – Along the Mill Brook . . . You know when you have overextended yourself when you hit the wall or, in some cases, the floor. My grand plan to attend the first DCI show of 2025, “Drums Along the Rockies” in Fort Collins, CO, was interrupted by such an overextension.

At 70 all of those seven-mile runs, Peak-a-Week hikes and long ski days in the Green Mountains have begun to catch up with me in the form of a fluttery heart. This A-fib condition is also enhanced by anxiety, such as traveling and being away from the Mill Brook and an important project that has been in the works for almost five years -- saving a 19th Century, two-room schoolhouse and starting a music school.

Such was the condition when I decided to pull the plug on the Colorado portion of my 2025 DCI tour. Wisely, all of my accommodations were refundable. I donated my two tickets to the show to Kate, the BAC uniform angel, and another volunteer. Since my last blog post, I have been to Michigan and back. I attended an in-person board meeting of the North Country Trail Association (NCTA) and visited my friends in Michigan.

My plan was to fly from Michigan to Colorado after that to spend some time with the Boston Crusaders



at summer training in Eaton, CO, and to meet up with my good-natured friend Brian. I envision Gino in the lot with the brass, thinking of the time that I was in the focal point of the arc in 2023 when BAC was last in Colorado. Alas. (Above, BAC brass in the lot at Eaton High School, Colorado, in 2023)

Aside from the overwhelming need to return home on Tuesday for the schoolhouse project, the Michigan trip was very successful . It was great to see and speak at a historic meeting of the NCTA. At 4,900 miles, it is the longest National Scenic Trail and one of 11 trails in the National Trails System as defined in the National Trails Act, including the Appalachian Trail and Pacific Crest Trail

It is co-managed by the National Park Service in partnership with the NCTA non-profit. The NCTA leverages eight dollars for every one dollar spent by the federal government on the trail. (Right, The North Country Trail in Saint Ignace, MI).

What a privilege it is to be associated with such an incredible group of volunteers from across eight northern border states. Many of my colleagues expressed concern about the



state of tourism from our northern neighbors.

Not to miss an opportunity to get cheaper airfare and to maximize my trip, I planned a one-week stay, bookending the meeting by staying with friends .

A dose of northern, lower Michigan and a hike with friends on the North Country Trail by flying into Traverse City, then lakeside with friends in Grand Haven.

Euchre, stout, sun, water and merriment with friends elevated the experience. Then it was time to come home. My Colorado friend, who was to join me at "Drums Along the Rockies," said when I called to cancel, "Do you think you might have just been overdoing it a little lately?"

It was too much to expect that I could keep on going west for the Colorado DCI show under the circumstances. Oh, how I wish I could be in two places at once. Coming home to focus on my local project was

the right thing to do.

While sitting at the gate for the flight to Burlington, I began to unwind steadily, surrounded by fellow Vermonters. Daughter number three picked me up at the airport and we had a nice lunch at the Prohibition Pig in Waterbury, VT, the original home of the Alchemist Brewery, maker of the nationally-famous Heady Topper double IPA.

Upon arriving home, I unpacked and sat on the

deck overlooking the Mill Brook. As the rhythm of life returned to normal, I realized that my body had been telling me to come home.

Thinking that I could close the deal on purchasing a historic two-room schoolhouse to convert to a music school ,while on the road with DCI ,was a bridge too far. Perhaps you read my blog, "A Tale of Two Schoolhouses."

In addition to extolling the value of our current elementary school up the road, it tells the story of the Fayston Number Nine Schoolhouse Above, Number Nine Schoolhouse, 831 Mill Brook Road, Waitsfield, VT, directly opposite the brook from my deck, which served as the school for 60 years. It then became the home of the Burley Partnership, a well-respected architectural firm, for another 60 years. My summertime drum corps experiences have inspired me to support music education in my community. Now, we neighbors are planning to continue the building's utility into the next 60 years for community arts and cultural activities. We will begin with music lessons.

Yesterday I signed the purchase and sale agreement on behalf of the 501(c)(3) non-profit Friends of the





Number Nine Schoolhouse, Inc. Our goal is to conserve, restore and re-purpose the iconic 1903 building along the Mill Brook. We plan to utilize the space for music lessons, rehearsals, small performances and music recording.

We will be collaborating with our local school system, which boasts an exceptional music department, and with the numerous local music professionals who reside and perform in our resort community. We will invest in remote learning technologies so that students can take lessons from professionals anywhere in the world, in a comfortable and well-equipped setting.

However, first we must secure

the building in our care. To that end, we are raising funds for closing costs and a sizeable chunk of the principal. I humbly ask you to consider donating to our project by sending a tax-deductible contribution to: Friends of the Number Nine Schoolhouse, Inc., 831 Mill Brook Road, Waitsfield, VT 05673 (QR code on the right). Thank you!

Coming home was the right thing to do for the schoolhouse, but I have not abandoned my 2025 DCI quest. Yesterday, I signed up for FloMarching and purchased a large-screen TV that will temporarily reside in my living room before I donate it and hang it in the schoolhouse.

(Above, the author has his new large screen for Flo).

I have invited my friends to come by for a “Drums Along the Rockies” watch party tonight. They are clueless about drum corps and scratch their heads in concern when I begin to describe it. I will be texting with friends Garry, Dottie and Kate, for backup opinions on what we see and hear. Being on Mountain time, it will be a late night.

Now that we are under contract with the schoolhouse, a huge milestone on the long road to restoring it, I am confident in returning to my DCI tour on July 5 to attend three shows in California with a personal time-out with friends in San Diego for a few days in between.

The magic of the DCI western tour in California should have a positive effect on BAC. There is gold in them there hills. I can now reveal that the BAC show is called “Boom.” This simple one-word title is often used by me when something exceptional happens, like when a student gets it, or a golfer hits a perfect drive, or sinks a long putt.

It is also a fitting title for a drum corps show, as there are lots of boom moments throughout. BAC will depict the atomic age of the mid-20th Century century, my early years.

During the early viewings at spring training in Vermont last month, I enjoyed the fast, energetic and fun beginning of the program. The boom is yet to come. If I close my eyes, I can imagine the 165 striving in the Colorado sun. RESET! ■



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Brian Tolzmann's The amazing world of drum corps

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Huge honor

In November of 1981 the Memphis Blues Brass Band (*right, 1981, Ed Ferguson*), also known as MB3, was presented with the W. C. Handy Award, named for the "Father of the Blues." The junior corps, active on the field for just the 1980-1983 seasons, received the honor for excellence in music education.



Lucky Len

Longview, WA, hosted a drum corps contest June 26, 1982 which was won by the Blue Devils 'B'. A raffle was held in the middle of the show, with the grand prize winner being famed percussion judge Len Carey, who was judging that night. He went home with a new pickup truck, complete with attached camper.

Get off my lawn!

It was June 10, 1983 and the Marquis (*right, 1983, Donald Mathis*) junior corps from From du Lac, WI, was on the field for a contest in Mt. Prospect, IL. All of a sudden a young man rode a bicycle onto the field, resulting in quite a number of people in the stands yelling at him to get off the field. It turned out that he had an E. T. doll in his basket, recreating the famous bike scene from the movie "E.T." and it was all part of the Marquis' field show.



Adding insult to injury

On March 21, 1927, six members of the Sarasota, FL, American Legion Drum & Bugle Corps were injured when a hit and run driver, driving without lights, drove right into the corps as they practiced on the street. The police stated that there was no way the driver didn't know the corps was on the street, saying, "They play loud enough to wake the dead!"

Strict corps

The Long Island Sound junior corps from Bayshore, NY, was active in the late 1990s through 2000, and they had stringent rules for academics. All of the corps members had to bring school books along to any corps function during the school year and the group even traveled with its own certified teacher.

Buggy

The Glassmen (*below, 1996, unknown*) from Toledo, OH) hosted (and competed in) a drum corps contest held June 25, 1996, at True-Lay Stadium in Port Clinton, OH. A huge infestation of mayflies forced a drum majors-only retreat, and most of the spectators rushed out of the stands to the dark areas around the stadium, away from the bugs, to hear the results of the show, with Cadets of Bergen County topping the Colts and Glassmen.



Fast learners

The Greenwich, C,T Stateliners (*below, 1970, Moe Knox*) junior corps had quite a first season of operation in 1970, with the 60-member corps winning the Yankee Circuit 'B' championship, winning the Northeastern Circuit 'B' championship and making the finals of the World Open 'B' championship. They also performed for President Richard Nixon that year when he visited Hartford.



Amazing stat

For eight straight seasons, 1981-1988, the second place corps at the DCI Championship was either the Blue Devils (*below right, 1982, Art Luebke*) or Santa Clara Vanguard. For the next nine seasons, 1989-1997, neither the Blue Devils or Santa Clara took second place.

On the red carpet this evening . . .

The night before the 1978 World Open in Lynn, MA, North Star (*below, 19781, Steve Evans*) from greater Boston area, members of their rifle line staying up all night at a member's house to sew white tuxedos. The next



day, everybody wondered where the rifle line was. At the last minute, they stepped out of a limousine, wearing their new white tuxedos, which they wore on the field. North Star went on to take third place at the World Open finals. ■

Drum Corps World launches mobile edition for phones, tablets!

Announcing Drum Corps World mobile, a streamlined, small-screen edition designed for phones, tablets, iPads and laptops. Your familiar desktop “flip-page” version isn’t going anywhere -- you now have a choice of formats for the best experience. Check out DCW mobile at <https://t.ly/XuThi> or scan the QR code below.

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Steve Vickers, publisher

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Mobile



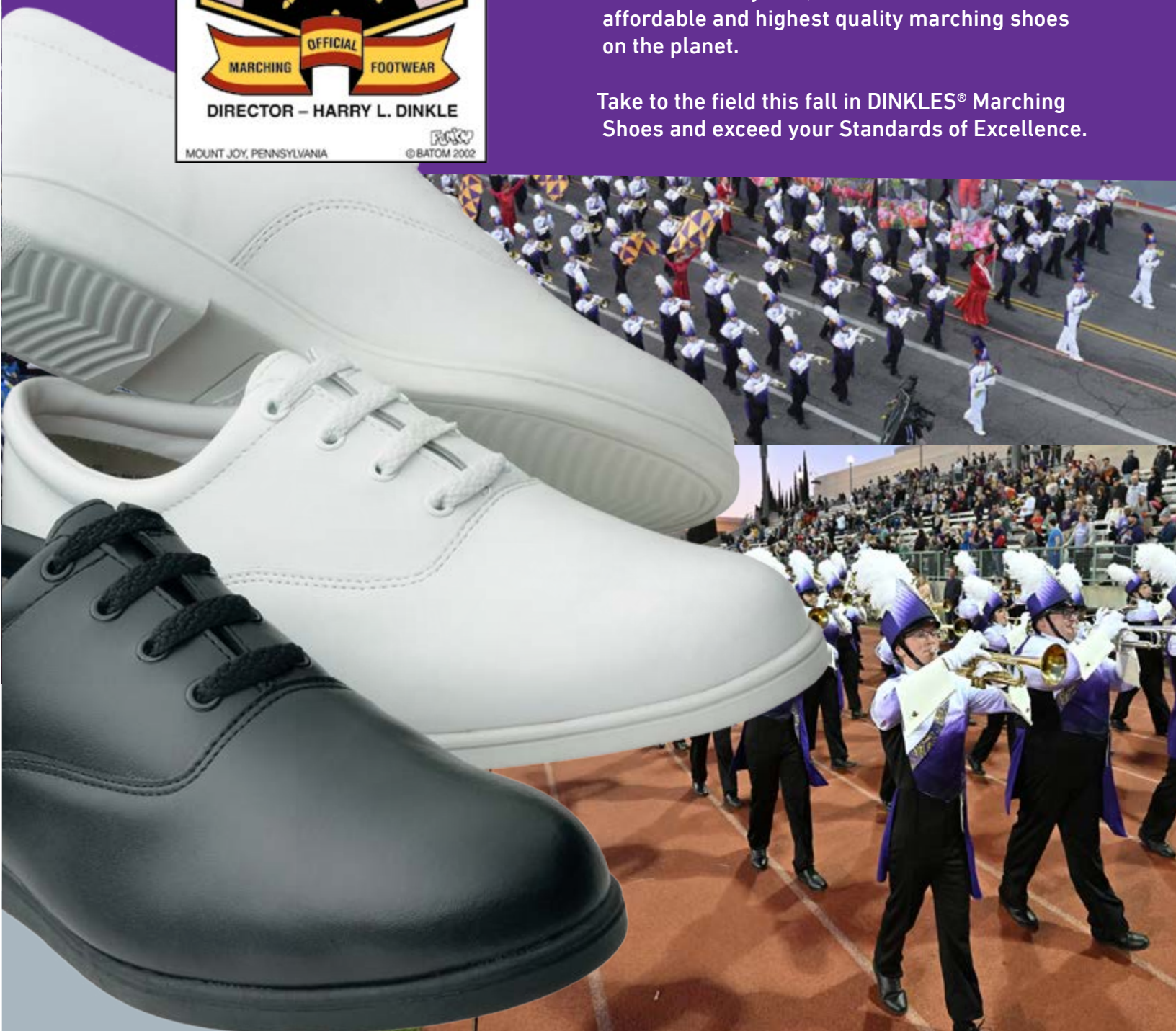


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(This page) CMCC
Warriors, 1969;
St. Ignatius Girls,
1976; Fantasia III, 1982;
Kilties, 1972;
St. Raphael's Golden
Buccaneers, 1967;
St. Lucy's Cadets,
1964.



Moe Knox photos



(This page) Blessed Sacrament Golden Knights, 1971; Oakland Crusaders, 1977; Dukes of Marlboro, 1966; Boston Crusaders, 1964; Meadowlarks, 1975; Cavaliers, 1966; Reading Buccaneers, 1965; Les Etoiles, unknown.

Blessed Sacrament Golden Knights host “Cavalcade of Brass” after 14 years off

September 13 -- Woodbridge, NJ . . . The Golden Knights’ “Cavalcade of Music” was reintroduced after a 14-year hiatus. The seats were filled with enthusiastic drum corps fans, folks who have followed drum corps and those who are descendants of alumni.

The event showcased Blessed Sacrament Golden Knights, The Crusaders Senior Corps, North Star, New York Skyliners, and the Warriors, along with three ensembles: Bridgemen Brass, Connecticut Alumni, and the Latin Express.

The I&E hosted the talented musicians from these corps, as well as members of the Hawthorne Caballeros Alumni and New



Wave. Both the judging and performance segments were integrated throughout the five-hour showcase. For the audience and performers, every minute of the program was entertaining and everyone

left the venue that evening on a satisfactory note.

The Golden Knights opened the show with the *National Anthem* followed by *America* and *Meglio Estera*. The Mayor of Woodbridge spoke as he was in awe of the powerful patriotic renditions being played by drums and bugles.

The brass and percussion routines left an impression throughout the day. The color guards of North Star, Crusaders Senior and the Golden





Knights put on quite a show with their coordinated choreography and visual effects.

As you wandered out of the hall, you noticed the various drum corps and performers practicing in the adjacent fields, bringing back the memories we all remember as kids of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.

The Golden Knights closed the day with their signature song, *National Emblem*.

Old School drum and bugle corps

are alive and well in the Garden State. with classic drum corps performances and competition, presented by Blessed Sacrament Golden Knights in association with the Classic Drum Corps Alliance held at the Acacia Youth Center in Woodbridge Township, New Jersey.



In front of a full house, performances by alumni, Individuals and ensembles in competition as well as full corps in exhibition, took us down memory lane. ■

(Photos by Ron Wyatt)



Buglers Hall of Fame announces new officers

by *Stephan M. Anderman*, Drum Corps World *staff* (smanderman@united.net)

The Buglers Hall of Fame, in a message to its members, has announced its new officers elected at the organizational meeting of its board of directors. In accordance with the organization's by-laws, the following officers were elected:

President - Mark L. Edsall (class of 2021)

First Vice President - Frank Panepento (class of 2015)

Second Vice President - Timmy Allen (class of 2023)

Recording Secretary - Laura Hanlon (class of 2020)

Secretary - Digital Media - Dani Masterson (class of 2022)

Treasurer - Keith Griffin (class of 2018)

The election was made necessary following the unfortunate and untimely passing of former President Donny Allen. The election allows the board of directors to move forward and carry on the business of the organization. The hall is truly blessed to have such an energetic and diverse team to move the Buglers Hall of Fame into the future.

The hall is forever grateful for the many years of commitment and dedication that Donny, current First Vice President Frank Panepento, and several others gave to the hall following the COVID-19 pandemic. Without their efforts, the hall would have been unable to enjoy the restored annual banquet, induction ceremony and the "I&E Showcase" hosted year after year.

Going forward, the current board is committed to strengthening their organizational structure, accountability, transparency and succession planning to the level that their members deserve and will be proud. Their support is vital to the continued success of the organization.

The Buglers Hall of Fame 2026 North American Championship I&E competition, reception, banquet and induction ceremony for the Class of 2026 has been scheduled for April 11, 2026 at the Radisson Hotel in Corning, NY. The "I&E Showcase" event will be dedicated to the memory of Donny Allen, who dearly loved this portion of the BHoF program and devoted so much time and energy organizing and promoting it.

For additional information, contact the Buglers Hall of Fame by e-mail at buglershof@gmail.com. You're also invited to join the Buglers Hall of Fame members, family and friends page on Facebook. The hall's Web site is currently being rebuilt and can be seen at <https://www.buglershof.org>. ■



Above left, Blue Rock, Wilmington, DE, 1968 (Moe Knox); above right, St. Kevin's Emerald Knights, Dorchester, MA, 1963, unknown.

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drum corps digest

PUBLISHED EXCLUSIVELY FOR DRUM CORPS ENTHUSIASTS



September 1971

PACIFIC NORTHWEST steve fain

COMPETITIVE DRUM CORPS in the northwest has been organized under the Northwest Drum Corps Association. The association has about twenty active members, and the majority of these have been very competitive this season.

The unit that impresses me the most, and that shows the most promise is the Percussion-Naut Patriots from Spokane, Washington. 1971 is the first year of competition for the corps, and they have done well to date. The Patriots were originally formed in 1961 as a percussion ensemble, and have been very competitive as such during the last three or four years. Last summer they made a twenty-five day tour of Europe and participated in the Swiss National Drum Festival, where the unit was honored and decorated by the Swiss Government. More recently the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge, Pennsylvania awarded them the George Washington Honor Medal for enriching community activity in the U.S. and abroad. The corps director is Howard A. Robbins, and it is just this imaginative leadership that has brought about these activities that excites me.

Today the Patriots have around 95 members, uniformed very impressively: the horn line wears 1812 (West Point) Cadet uniforms, while the drum line, known as the "Raiders", wears colonial and civil war uniforms. All of the corps uniforms are documented copies, and the drums were hand made in New England. Small in size, their horn line has a small sound, but shows a lot of promise. Their performance in general displays good instruction; i.e., for their first year out, they hold their intonation well. There are a lot of good third colors in their charts, and I salute Ken Norman and Tommy Todd for this work.

The winningest corps in the A circuit is the Portland/Vancouver Hawks. To date they have won nine straight A contests (the Patriots, competing in a B corps according to NWCCA rules for a

new unit, pulled down the high score of the night on the 4th of July). They do have the biggest sound of the corps they compete against, but it's not big in the mid-West sense — it just happens to be the biggest in our circuit now. Their show has always had a low key effect on me — and I can never figure out why. It always seems as though the timbre of their horns is not as brilliant as a bugle should be — perhaps from lack of tuning, but I'm really not sure. The guys I met were openly friendly, and if they're all as nice as Deane Washington, they must be a warm bunch to work with.

The Bellevue Sentinels put on a fine show against the Hawks on July 17 — as a matter of fact, I thought the Sentinels had them. Their horn line sounded cleaner in general, and their show had the most musical impact — in content and execution — of any of the units. They seem to be fairly well trained, and carried themselves as veterans more so than any other corps that evening (with the possible exception of the Patriots). The Sentinels toured the mid-West immediately before they appeared in the Tri-City show July 17, and I applaud their management for this — their corps undoubtedly benefitted from it — in expertise and spirit. They have a good rep, and did well with it in the mid-West (especially in content analysis), and except for Y.E. Kram's difficult concert chart (which I wouldn't pass out to a good stage band) the horn line played their rep well.

The Royal Lancers from Portland are down from what they were a few years ago, which, although they were never a national contender, was good enough to bring them six Oregon State Championships. They have a lot of snap, are a young corps, and I wish them all the guts it takes to come back for another championship.

The Portland Imperial Cadets have a very mild sounding corps, making me wonder what they did for lung power when I saw them. Their intonation is not

as good as the Lancers', but their show, judging from early season scores, is slightly better overall. The Salem Flamingoes were ever weaker in the horn department. However, their rep was written by Mike Duffy — and it was all Mike Duffy. Those of us in the NW and elsewhere recognize Mike's sound and look forward to it, whether it's "El Capitan" or "Theme from Romeo and Juliet" (which was an out-of-right chart by the way).

On the smaller units, the Bremerton Titans and Tri-City Columbians show the most promise. The Titans for a young corps reveal good instruction; the horns have a good deal of bite. At the beginning of August they had the first of two legs into advancing into the A circuit — and are on the move. After a two year absence, the Columbians have just reentered competition with a new management. The NW powerhouse in the early '60s, the corps has revived itself to become very competitive in the B circuit, and I wish them all the experience in the world on their way back to the top.

The Seattle Canades were almost apologetic when I saw them — and with reason. The corps has seen better roads — and I congratulate the kids for sticking in there in the face of their management and recent politics. The Astoria Sunsets and the Pendleton Rangers round out the circuit that is worth mentioning.

NEXT MONTH: Northwest recap.



Hap'nin' Set by Toni O

WOODOO WEEEEE
Y'ALL, if the magazine has
rolled off from August's
letter to the Editor from
William Campus (fills the
dead man) I'd drop some
Hap'nin' on ya.

Mr. Campus has another
friend in Pat O'Brien...
who can't see why the top
Corps feel they need a gim-
nick to win. He says the
gimmick is had enough but
to change from uniforms
to costumes??? And for an
all boy Corps to have a
little girl running around
the field??? Also EVERY-
ONE who enters the field
should be judged and
penalized for not being in
uniform. He wants to
know... how do they
judge Corps that RUN (one
two man, I call it out of
step and errors in phasing
and timing... how 'bout
you)? Fat says that if he
wants to see a show he'll
go to the show. Play-
house is downtown Chi-
cago. "You pay about the
same price to see a play as
to see the COMBINE".
Most of the true Drum
Corps fans get pretty
disappointed at seeing bugles gal-
lop around on their contras
he goes on to say. Thanks
for speaking up Pat and
giving your name. I got
other letters from people
who had a lot to say...
except what their names
are. For instance... here's
one signed just "A-CAV-
ALIER". "He" "she" or
"it" is P.O.D because I said
"because the Cavies are
who they are the standard
is set". "A-CAVALIER"
says the Cavies didn't start
the gimmick generation...
it was started years ago
by Corps like Kilns, Van-
guard and Madison. Pow-



Our lovely Toni O'Kellie Williams

erfully true... but this was-
n't an out of the blue,
image crushing, style
changing, humle. Those
Corps weren't as pedestaled
as the Cavies have
always been. Vanguard has
always had a wide open 3
ring circus type of drift,
BUT it was 3 ring because
there was so much to see

with boy squad flags, boy
flour flags, boy rifles, girl
squad flags, girl flour
flags, girl rifles, a dynamite
squad plus a huge
horn line and drum line
and a very interesting
Frank Pumper and Society
Wild drill. Madison's drill
and its soldier was amazing
but in step and not sold

wooley and, deep stick.
Kilns??? It was so subtle it's
hard to remember. Maybe
that's the dot... Cavies
have always been smooth,
cool, calm, precise, matter
of fact, mostly, uplight-
hearted etc. now during
these questions, maybe
these things ARE being
judged and the penalties

NOT like the Cavies we all
loved who won WITHOUT
the staff and things and
whatever. "A-CAVALIER"
also says "use the Cavies
as gimmicks but they're
used in Cav style (OH???
... since when is kicking a
rumpster in the rear the
Cavies style??? Hip me) He
says the style he means is
professionalism and
authenticity. NOT imita-
tion like Troopers square-
dancer or Kilns "Little
dancer". "A-CAVALIER"
says that I made the com-
ment "I guess the judges
did it enough to nap it
up"... and he alleges that
the Cavies have won on
execution. Possibly true
again... I have always ad-
mired and respected the
Cavies for their expert
field execution. We can all
appreciate this beautiful,
lovely, gorgeous thing but
is having the horn line and
drum line and Guard mark
time through a WHOLE
song while we watch BO-
ZO what is now known as
EXECUTION??? We don't
have to admit WHAT
you're doing just the way
you're doing it. Since when
did a whistle, a whip, ten-
nis balls (for juggling) and
the like become authorized
field equipment? Since
when does it look good to
see people changing clothes
on the field? Since when is
it NOT a penalty of I.I
when a rifle is jaggled,
dropped and picked up???
Since when is it NOT a
penalty for marching
members to fall on the
ground like he acrobat or
not) and get back up with-
out I.I being taken off???
I'm running into a front a
back-in-sack??? Please
someone answer... TM
NOT the only one asking
these questions. Maybe
these things ARE being
judged and the penalties

ARE being assessed... but
if so, WHY aren't the fans
being made aware of it.
(Can I get and AMEN?
AMEN) "A-CAVALIER"
also when everyone would
stop calling his Corps a
CLOWN BAND, because
they are still the fine ex-
ecuting Corps they have
always been. The only dif-
ference now is they are
giving the people some-
thing to ENJOY (OH???
And "A-CAVALIER"
last comments are "We're
on top and that's what
counts" (I for one hope I
never get that attitude
about anything).

Here is a letter from
Elynn Brakke regarding
the show in Kenosha which
I commented on in July.
Mr. Brakke and his wife
traveled 1200 miles round
trip from Kansas to see this
show. Mr. Brakke is son of
one walk out of the stands.
Sorry Mr. B but I got a lot
of letters and have talked
to Ex Cavies and others
who walked out on that
show. There were lots of
others who also shared in
the booing too... maybe
you're chasing to loud-
ly you didn't hear it... or
maybe it wasn't coming
from the part of the stands
you were in. Thank you
for your letter and send
more info. on the Mid-
America Patriots if I'm
not on your "bad list"
now. Anyway, good luck
on your Corps season.

Thanks to Scott Tru-
dale for the Long Island
Kingsmen button and
schedule. Scott's biggest
desire is to be a rifle in a
Guard, but in the LKs
they only have girls in the
Guard sooooo he has to
settle for "JES" being a
solo soprano (what "Jes"
lots of dudes would give
their right knee to be a
solo sop) This year the
Corps is playing Precision
of the Baobabs, Overton

Don How the West Was
Won, Big, Spunky and
Touch Me Pete Enns (ex
Trooper), Gene Bennett,
John Sasso and Ted Sasso
and John Prude are the
instructors. Let's hear
more from you Society
babe.

Steve Sikarsak, you
can really be proud of your
Rockies, Blue Rock,
Rocky Rockers, or
Chlorine Machine... CVO
Nationals. Even though
there was a ton up for the
first four spots at a few shows
between SCVG, Kgom,
27th and the Rock, the
Rock has made a grand
showing all the way, es-
pecially in drums I under-
stand. They also captured
the Fox West Champi-
onship and Jersey VFW State.
Steve's Corps ratings if
you don't know who he's
speaking for, himself or the
corps were SCVG...
REAL good... Kingsmen
- Concert GREAT...
Madison - Super fantastic
and GE... Arizona - Su-
per fantastic... Cavies - a
JOKE... Troopers -
GREAT MAM, horns in/
so... Blue Rock - taking
it all GE without doing
flips. Stay cool Steve
babe.

I hope David Fitzpatrick
and the Guardians of
Winlock had a good show
(Drums Across the Borders
on August 15th). The com-
peting Corps were Toots
Optimism, DeLaBelle Oak-
land, Les Compagnons,
32nd Hundred Knicker-
bockers and others. I don't
have the scores but I'm
sure Dave will fill us in
next month. Also news-
letters and pen pals are
wanted by Dent. His ad-
dress is 1236 Gladstone
Avenue, Windsor 14 On-
tario.

Robin Hay of the Mt.
Prospect Guardians, if
you want to be featured in
Digest (this is for all you
Corps out there) write
a story including the Corps
history, instructors, man-
agement achievements etc.
and send current pictures
with it to the Editor
Clarice Rutte and she'll do
the rest. We can't possibly
make it around to all the
Corps. Also anyone com-
plaining about not seeing
most pictures of your
Corps in Digest... it's be-
cause you haven't sent in
any recent ones. Or just
keep writing to me, I'll
print as much as you send
but I can't do a whole
article on just one Corps.
But keep in mind that the
info you send me will al-
ways be printed one month
behind. For instance, what
you send in September
won't be in the October
issue, it will be in the
November issue. P.S. Rob-
in, I have seen you and
the summer. I instruct the
Imperial (of Skokie) flag
line. Now do you re-
member.

Well a www...
sightings, it's about time
people started coming out
and saying Biddy. In the
past month I have met
most of the present
people and some even
promised to visit... be-
fore 3 AM. Keep it up.
Howdy Doody to all the
early Cheveliers. Gals
Waltera Ford who kid-
naped me out of my
dressing room into theirs in
M e H e y y. A big
UUUUUUHHH call call
goes to the "Pork"... the
Corps double steez line
consisting of Rick Dun-
ley, Scott (big wigg)
Wigot and Bruce Astor.
Ashley (bride wigg) Wig-
ot introduced me to her
wicked little sisters, Patti
Hill Doo, Jody E, Kathy I
and Kathy 2, Kelly KJ, and
Sgt Cooke who's a bunch
of winners. Red Eye Red
Rory Rintensing Rap Re-
view R Rad Rith Rhen.

Let, they've even got me
talking Ratty. The Corps
fields 26 flags thanks to
mighty Jan Spryuk Kas, 6
rifles, 3 in the American
Unit, 2 sets, 40 horns, 16
drums and the Drum Ma-
jors name is Janis Stey-
noff. A special tip goes to 2
months old??? Susan Bar-
tona who always wears a
silly hat and so to the big
month day. Catch ya later
Chevys... oh yeah...
good luck on your second
trip to Cape Wyoming.
With I could give a kidnap
me again when you get
ready to leave.

Jeanne Burd of the Cult
45... my ironing is
mothering me... you
said I could send it to you
so... so... so... so... so...
you'll be receiving a 10 in
box, be ready babe...
glad you're my flagline.
Hello to John Burdette
of the Fox Valley Raiders
and to Mike Hopper of the
Falcones, and to Mr. & Mrs.
Stiffman of the Rosettes
and to Jean and Joann
Gregory my Peter Mac
buddies glad to see you at
State.

Burhills (don't hurt!!)
Larry Gainers says HI and
so do I babes, I hear Hops
(MAM) and Rocco
Oliviero (music) are back
with the Kingsmen of Calif.
Mike Duffy of Troopers
wrote most of their music
this year. Are the Golden
Statesmen dwindling down
to nothing with only about
30 remaining members?
Tuff Break, Got a nice note
from Don Polinsky of the
Kingsmen who brings up
the point "Some we have
some ex VK members in
our Corps this year but we
also have some from other
Corps too. When kids come
before deadline... how
can you turn them
away??? (you can't Don).
This was in answer to the
angry VK of a couple of
columns ago. For a few

facts and figures about
Don, he and his wife grew
up in Chi-Town, marched
with the Chicago Gira-
diers (51, 53 & 54) Met
Turner (52) Skokie (55)
helped organize a Senior
Corps called the Californi-
ans, helped Don Porter
with the Anaheim Boy
Scouts, played French
horns for the NY Crusaders,
was executive Director for
Oakland Warriors in 68,
then back to the Kingsmen
in 70 in which he saw Les
play baritone. Also the
Kingsmen would prefer to
be called the Kingsmen of
Southern California instead
of the Anaheim Kingsmen
because the members are
from all over Southern Cal.
That's going to take a long
time getting used to, Don,
after over two years
they're still calling the Im-
perials "Norewood", and
the Vanguard "Skokie"
... but we'll try to
remember, okay. GREAT...
oh, I mean Kingsmen
because the members are
from all over Southern Cal.
Guns I'd better handle
on down to the old mail
box and get ready for all
those dagger letters I know
will be coming in after you
get through reading this
column... but let's still be
friends... that's the way
the old journalism hall
bromans.

See ya in Midwest Color
Guard Circuit competition
this coming season...
with the Imperials of
course. Okay Would, have
I come, I know you're
hungry. Later.



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Sal Ferrara

Sal Ferrara, Musical Arranger and Instructor
Cavaliers Drum & Bugle Corps, Chicago, Illinois
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jon duncan the great plains: sound off

THIS MONTH just about wraps up the '71 M&M season, and it should prove to be very interesting to see how this one is rated in the annals of drum corps.

The corps in the Great Plains grew in both quality and number this year and I sincerely hope that this trend will continue.

The new units to make the drum corps scene this year were the Eldoradans of Denver, Colorado, and the Young Tulsans of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The Eldoradans defeated their cross town rivals, the Denver Blue Knights, and won their first Colorado State AL title. Not bad for a corps that will be a year old in October.

The Eldoradans still have a long way to go before they will rival their friends to the north in Casper, but if the corps continues to improve at the rate it did this year, Denver will have quite a corps on its hands.

Another new corps that really impressed me, was the Young Tulsans. The corps is also a part time concert band and this might have been the reason behind their extremely mature sound for a first year corps.

The Young Tulsans came to Kansas for their first tour in the end of July, and left with the Emporia Plainsmen under them and some true Es spirit de corps. This is one that we will probably be hearing a lot about in the future.

This next corps also comes under the new caption, but that is only as far as the name is concerned. The Continental Ambassadors from Wichita are the product of a merger between the Phantoms and Scarlet Lancers.

The two corps combined in May but the results didn't show until some late July shows. The Ambassadors came up over 15 points from the beginning of the season and it appears that they will continue to come up with more than enough members and a young imaginative staff.

It seems that my comments about the lower corps in the July issue of Digest



prompted two basic comments. Chevaliers number one and Colt .45's number one. At the Iowa State contest, it was the Colt .45 who emerged number one for the second year in a row.

Along with being the top corps in Iowa, the Colts feature their State Champion all-girl guard and a B corps known as the Colt .45 Cadets.

The Chevaliers of Waterloo came out number two in that show, but it doesn't sound as though they will be settling for second place much longer.

The time will soon be coming when most corps will be going into their secret camps but remember that this will also be a great time for features and photos of your corps to appear in Digest.

Be sure and tune into your favorite NBC TV station on Saturday evening, September 4, for the Kansas City Chiefs - St. Louis Cardinals football game. The Argonne Rebels are tentatively scheduled to provide the halftime show for that game.



STARDUSTERS

by Emile Latour



photo by Jane Boulton

THE EASTERN DRUM CORPS have dominated the national scene for nearly two generations. The mid-western corps have taken national honors for the past ten years. Even more recently, the Pacific Coast corps have claimed many important national titles. Now a new area may be growing up to become a national threat — the South. With the rise of the Stardusters Drum and Bugle Corps from New Orleans, Louisiana, it may mark the dawn of a new era for another area in the world of drum corps.

Over the 4th of July weekend the Stardusters came to the Mid-West — still the Mecca of the drum corps world — and managed to top a few of the giants along the way. Besides beating corps who have repeatedly remained among those at the zenith of national competition, the Stardusters captured the imagination of the drum corps fans. Unquestionably, the Stardusters were a heavy favorite of each

audience before which the corps performed, and when the judges saw the corps in some place other than first, the audience let the judges know of their displeasure. People somehow are always more likely to worship a rising star than a settling sun.

The Stardusters may prove to be a bigger threat nationally than anyone first imagined. The group is made up of the greatest bunch of fun loving and courteous boys and girls assembled anywhere. And in addition to these traits which are rare in the youth of today, they are willing to work all afternoon to bring to the field an evening performance which will outdazzle all others. These qualities are unbeatable!

By the time this material is in print, the Stardusters' performances in South Milwaukee, Excelsior Springs, Dallas and Houston will be history. Since I am not a soothsayer, I will not attempt to predict the places which the Stardusters will

finish in this shows. But I will and can tell you that the Stardusters will be there, and everyone will know it and will remember it for sometime to come.

Besides these national contests, the Stardusters will entertain at the halftime show of the Miami Dolphin Football game on August the 7th. At the time of the writing of this article, the game is scheduled to be televised throughout the United States. We hope that if you did not see the Stardusters at one of the national contests that you may have had the chance to watch the corps at home on television.

The young men and women of the Stardusters have set their goal and have a dream to follow. The immediate goal is to better their last year, 1970, sixteenth place ranking in the V.F.W. Nationals. The dream that must be followed is to win a national championship. Only the champions of tomorrow are likely to tell of the grand heights that they may reach.

Northern California

Linda Orlandella



"Commodores"

CAPTAIN WEBER'S DAY celebration gave the Stockton area a good taste of Drum and Bugle Corps, with ten corps from Northern California participating. The night parade was televised and shown two hours later. This is one time it was possible to see exactly what the judges did. The Capitalaires were the sweetest winners. The Manderines of Sacramento made an appearance and looked good, it had been rumored they would not be able to perform this season. The Vanguard feeder corps made their first appearance in this area.

Next evening at the "Music in Motion" show all was beautiful even the weather

cooled down. The corps all performed well. The Royalaires of San Leandro were on exhibition, looks like they have overcome their problems and are well on their way. The top honors of the evening went to the Commodores, they have been working hard to be ready for the trip to Texas and it showed. Running a close second were the Capitalaires of Sacramento. Their arrangement of "Norwegian Wood" is great. The Redwood Guardians (last year's California B Corps Champions) are still on the move up.

The B Corps competition is so good, top honors went to the ever amazing Blue Devils. It is hard to realize this is the corps' first competing year. In second

place with an amazing jump in score were the Conquistadors, guess those new uniforms did the trick. The Knight Raiders and C Cadets gave much improved performances.

Not to be left out of the Northern California scene is the Santa Clara Vanguard. Representing Northern California all over the country, and doing a very good job at it. Keep up the good work Vanguard.

This month I would like to pay a tribute to the many devoted parents, former Drum and Bugle Corps members and all other Drum Corps Nuts. Without their unending support and help, the Corps would have a difficult time.

Spartans approved for DCI World Class membership

by Chris Weber, Drum Corps International

Las Vegas -- During the fall business meetings of Drum Corps International's participating ensembles, Nashua, NH's, Spartans were approved as a World Class member organization. *(Below, 1992, Dan De Rosa)*

The change comes on the heels of a transition year for the Open Class World Champion corps, in which the group successfully completed a "hybrid" touring model.



As part of the 2025 DCI summer season, Spartans competed in around half of their events as a World Class corps before finishing off the season under the Open Class heading.



"We are honored to join Drum Corps International as a World Class voting member," Spartans President Paul LaFlamme said. "This milestone is a testament to decades of dedication from our members, staff, alumni and community who have carried the Spartans forward with passion and pride."

Spartans competed for the first time at the DCI Eastern Classic in Allentown, PA, during the 2025 DCI Tour.

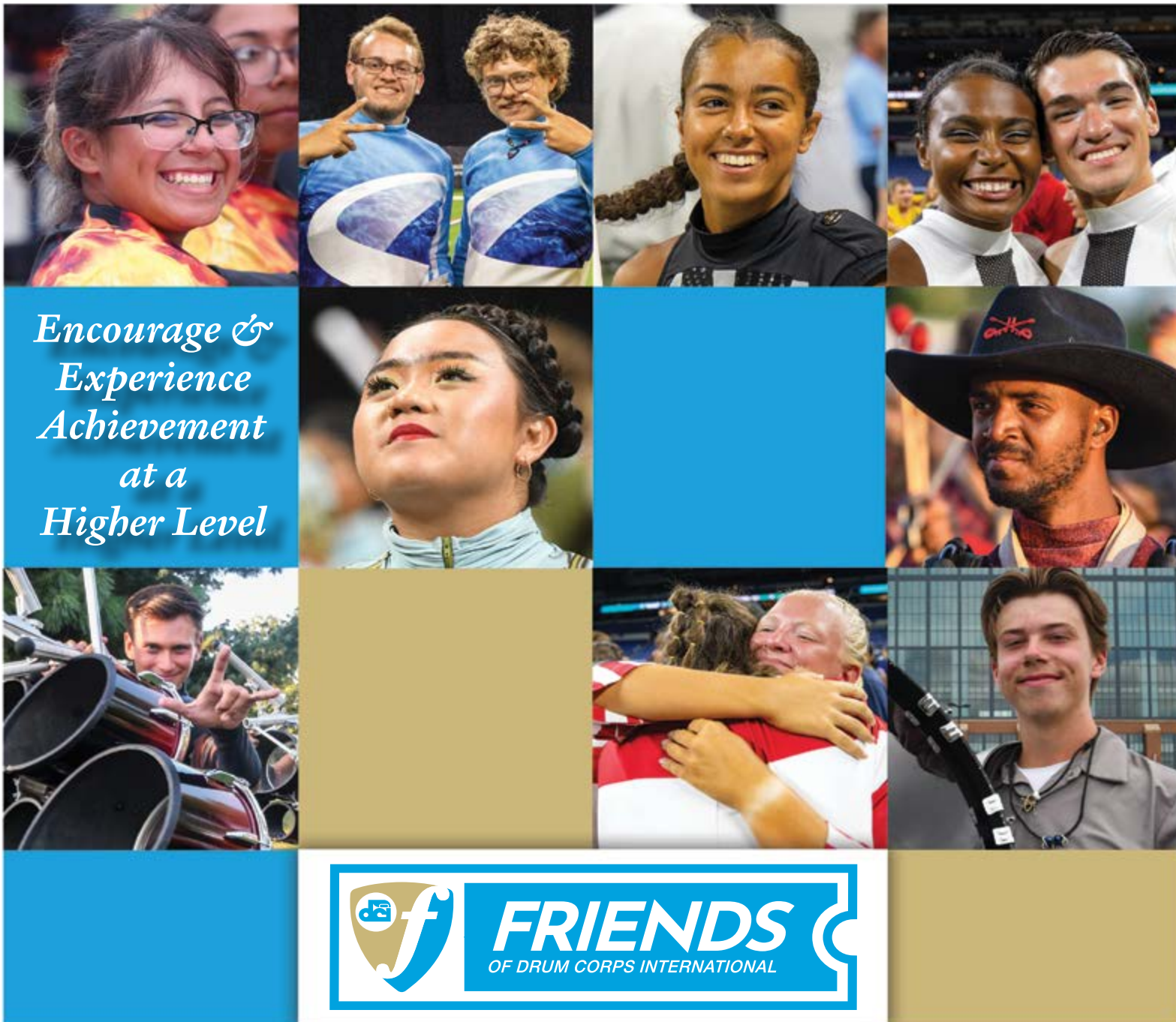
In recent years the Spartans have gone from a "weekend only" corps, following a 10- or 20-day tour, to a full 45-day season as part of the experience they deliver to their performers. *(Below, 2025, Russell Tanakaya)*

Marking their milestone 70th anniversary in 2025, the Spartans' transition to DCI's World Class as one of the most decorated Open Class corps in history. The corps has laid claim to a plethora of DCI World Championship titles including back-to-back-to-back wins in 2023, 2024 and 2025.

With the next step in the organization's evolution now complete, in the coming weeks the Spartans are set to march in the 2025 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. Their 2026 summer tour stops will be released as part of the reveal of the DCI Tour schedule in mid-November.

"We look forward to working alongside our fellow World Class organizations to help shape the future of this unique and incredible activity that we all love," LaFlamme said. ■





*Encourage &
Experience
Achievement
at a
Higher Level*

BECOME A “FRIEND OF DCI” TODAY and share your commitment with future generations of outstanding young performers! Members of the Friends program help fill stadiums throughout the summer tour, creating an “inner circle” of the most committed DCI fans who support the pursuit of excellence at the highest level. Their generosity and dedication play an important part in the lives of drum corps members.

Becoming a Friend allows donors to share their commitment with outstanding young performers and at the same time enjoy a set of unique benefits which can include the opportunity to purchase

exclusive seats in the choicest seating sections at World Championship events in Indianapolis, priority entrance to Lucas Oil Stadium, and access to ticket pre-sales for select DCI Tour events throughout the season.

The best benefit, though, is knowing that the quest for excellence on the part of dedicated young people is made possible due in part to the support provided by the Friends of DCI.

Visit DCI.org/friends for more information and to make your donation today.



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ENSEMBLE COORDINATOR
mark monaghan



Announce- ments



BRASS CAPTION HEAD
anthony paterno



Crossmen

**2026
DESIGN STAFF**



Michael Hardiek
Design Coordinator



John Meehan
Music Coordinator



Mike Huestis
Percussion Composer



Dan Morrison
Design Consultant



Mason Daffinee
Visual Designer



Rachel Montañez
Guard & Visual Designer



Wes Pendergrass
Visual Coordinator



Connor Smethers
Choreographer



Al Chez
Design Consultant



Dane McGrath



*Program
Coordinator*

Lindsey Schueller



Visual

Chadd Hartman



Color Guard

Matt Owen



Brass

Kayla Liptak



*Front
Ensemble*

Eric Striver



Percussion

2026

Instructional Leadership

Pacific Crest



**Compiled by Drum Corps World
staff member Dave Scott**



WELCOME Gold

2026 COLOR GUARD STAFF LEADERSHIP



ANTHONY GARCIA
DESIGNER/CHOREOGRAPHER



CARRIE APPEL
CAPTION HEAD

DESIGN STAFF



SHANE GWALTNEY



CJ BARROW



MICHAEL MILLER



DR. BRIAN TINKEL



BRANDON SMITH



JASON PALMER

WELCOME



Chris Green
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

CAROLINAGOLD.ORG

WELCOME



DON DOHM
EDUCATION COORDINATOR

WELCOME



Jon Gifford
STAFF COORDINATOR

CAROLINAGOLD.ORG



COLOR GUARD CAPTION HEAD
michelle adcock

80



2026 NORTHERN LIGHTS BOARD



NORTHERNLIGHTSMT.ORG/STAFF

Announcements

DESIGNERS & EDUCATION LEADERS



COORDINATORS



Paul Cullen
Staff & Music
Coordinator



Nicholas Tavares
Artistic Coordinator



Steve Rinda
Visual Designer &
Coordinator

ARRANGERS



Dr. Mark Lortz
Brass Arranger



Travis Peterman
Battery Arranger,
Ensemble Consultant



Dr. Mark Eichenberger
Front Ensemble Arranger



Sam Fleming
Sound Designer

CAPTAIN LEADERSHIP



Mike Tannos
Brass Captain Head



Brand Davis
Brass Captain Head



Amy Dulaney
Front Captain Head



Lydia Bean
Front Captain



Mitch Meissner
Color Guard Captain Head



Dr. Tyler Wales
Percussion Captain Head



Sean Moran
Percussion Captain Head



Ben Kern
Front Ensemble Manager



Reed Kimmel
Drum Captain Manager

Staff Announcement Brass Caption Head



Logan Gupta

BIO

Logan began his drum corps journey in 2011 with the Bushwackers at just 14 years old, sparking a lifelong passion for the activity and its impact on music education. He went on to march two seasons with The Cadets (2017-2018) before transitioning to the instructional side of the activity.

Raiders

BIO cont.

Since joining the Raiders brass staff in 2019, Logan has brought dedication, energy, and a deep commitment to developing young performers. His leadership has been instrumental in shaping the growth of the brass program, and he is eager to carry that momentum into the 2026 season as Caption Head.

BIO cont.

Beyond his work with the Raiders, Logan serves as the Director of the Marching Band at Burlington Township High School and directs the Bristol Community Band in Bristol, PA. His passion for music education and performance continues to inspire the next generation of musicians both on and off the field.



GUARDIANS DRUM & BUGLE CORPS



BILL GREENBERG
CORPS DIRECTOR



NATALIE WILSON
ASST. CORPS DIRECTOR



MAR' CORDRIC D. (CORDY) COLLINS
DIRECTOR OF DESIGN & EDUCATION



HOUSTON STIVLEY
QUARTERMASTER & TRANSPORTATION MANAGER



BATTERY CO-COORDINATOR
zach brenna



BATTERY CO-COORDINATOR
kirby marino



2026 BRASS STAFF



Bryen Warfield
Brass Section Head



Kristen Eck
Assistant Section Head



Justin Daly
Lead Trumpet Technician



Seth Marshall
Trumpet Technician



Jared Sessink
Trumpet Technician



Thomas Vieira
Trumpet Technician



Josh Jenkins
Lead Mellophone Technician



Aaron Owens
Mellophone Technician



Sammie Muckleroy
Mellophone Technician



Corey Barrow
Mellophone Technician

Mandarin



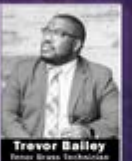
Eric Weingartner
Lead Tuba Technician



Amanda Stevenson
Teneri Brass Technician



Key Poulson IV
Teneri Brass Technician



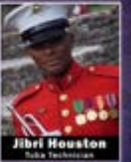
Trevor Bailey
Teneri Brass Technician



Jason Harvey
Teneri Brass Technician



Alberto Ocasio
Lead Tuba Technician



Jibri Houston
Tuba Technician



Justin Clarkson
Tuba Technician



Nick Collins
Tuba Technician

DESIGN TEAM



JIM BUDAN



LAURYN HELLER GRIFFIN



ANDREW MONTEIRO



JAMEY THOMPSON



DESIGN TEAM



DAVE DUMONT



EDDIE GRIFFIN



JESSE VALENCIA



DESIGN TEAM



ZACK TRAVIS



GAL AZZARA



JAYCEE WILSON



TONY RIDEOUT



MEET OUR 2026 CREATIVE TEAM



PAT MILLER
visual designer



ERIC SHRIVER
battery arranger



FRANKIE RICE
front ensemble arranger
& soundscape designer



JOHN MEISSNER
creative director



JEREMY THOMPSON
brass arranger



REBEKAH SALAS
scenic designer

River City Rhythm



Meet Our 2026
Leadership Staff



Jon Wilson
Battery Coordinator



Makayla Kurtz
Visual Coordinator



Dennis Farmer
Front Ensemble Coordinator



Cory Marfield
Color Guard Coordinator



Jordan Roberts
Program Consultant



Meet Our 2026
Leadership Staff



Douglas Olmstead
Corps Director



Brandon Lish
Asst Corps Director



Amy Felt
Asst Corps Director - Brass



Don Shewchuk
Asst Corps Director - Visual

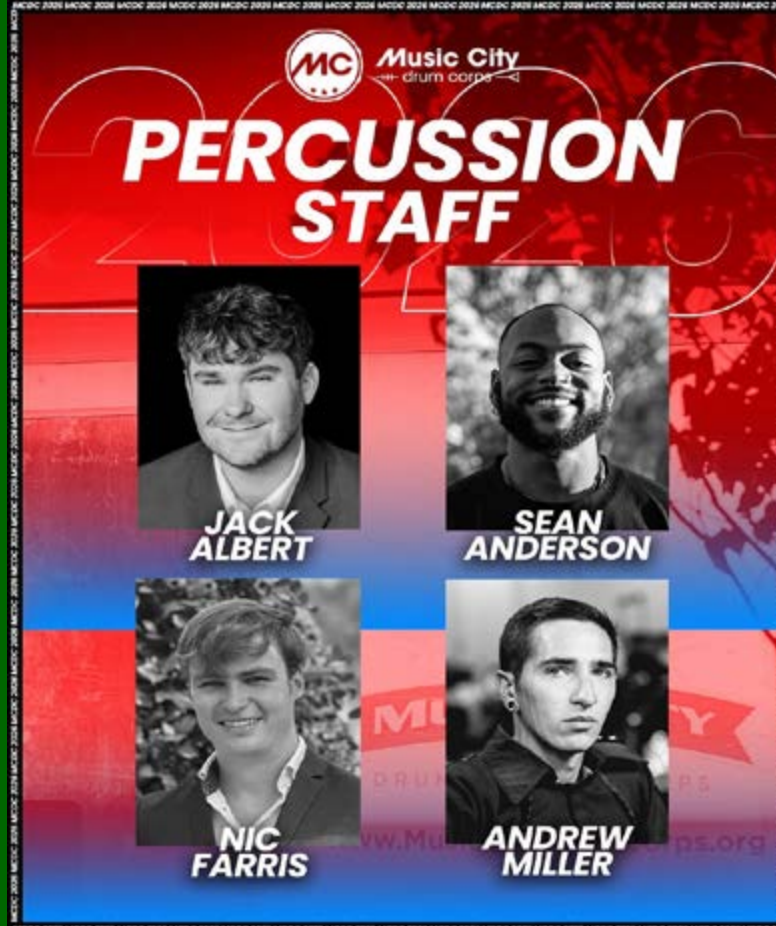
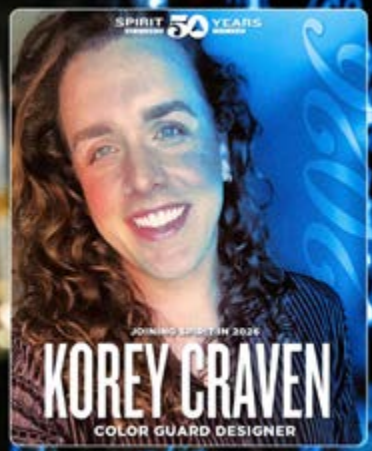
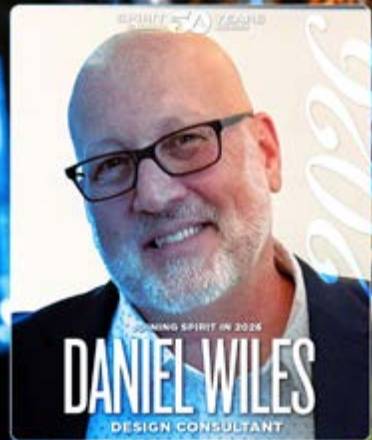


Jacob Kamradt
Asst Corps Director - Percussion

northwesthigh.org/staff

northwesthigh.org/staff

Announcements



Cincinnati Tradition

C



**ANDREW
WHETMAN**

BRASS CAPTION HEAD

Andrew is originally from Doylestown, Ohio. He graduated from the University of Mount Union with a Bachelor of Music Education in 2013. Andrew performed in the Bluecoats Drum and Bugle Corps in 2011 and 2012 in which he was a trumpet soloist. He also served as a trumpet soloist for the Bluecoats Alumni Corps in 2022 and for Rhythm in Blue, the Bluecoats alumni project, where he contributed as an arranger as well, from 2014-2017.

Upon graduation, Andrew began his tenure as the Brass Caption Head for the Miamisburg High School Marching Band, where he has been teaching since 2014. He has also played the same role with the WGI Winds program at Miamisburg since its inception in 2015. Andrew has been assisting the Carlisle High School Marching Band since 2023 as well, and he has held a successful private lesson studio with students from both of these school districts for just as long. Andrew has also been a part of Valhalla Winds since its inaugural season in 2023 as the music coordinator and is excited to be joining Cincinnati Tradition for the 2026 season!

Fusion Core

DESIGN TEAM



ADAM THARP
PROGRAM
COORDINATOR



CHRIS CRESWELL
BRASS DESIGN



MIKE MARINO
BATTERY DESIGN



JACOB REIR
FRONT ENSEMBLE
DESIGN



RILEY JORGENSEN
ENSEMBLE
COORDINATOR



EVAN BLACK
GUARD DESIGN



LINDSEY SCHULLER
DRILL DESIGN



DAVID BRUHL
DESIGN
CONSULTANT

Connecticut Hurricanes

2026 Design Team



Dan Schack



Program Coordinator
and Battery Arranger

David Paradis



Front Ensemble
Arranger

Matt Hartwell



Drill
Designer

Key Poulan



Brass
Arranger

Conor Kovatch



Color Guard
Designer

Bryson Teel



Sound
Designer

BLUECOATS

BLUECOATS TO TOUR CALIFORNIA IN 2026



2026 DESIGN TEAM



WARD MILLER
Brass Arranger



MIKE HARDIEK
Drill Designer



LEE KRUEGER
Battery Arranger



HAYDEN HOIUM
Front Ensemble
Arranger



COLEMAN MOORE
Sound Designer



MOLLY HANZELKA
Production Designer &
Color Guard Supervisor



LARRY PAWLOWSKI
Show Consultant



GOVENAIRES.ORG/JOIN



2026 ECLIPSE ADMIN TEAM



Casey Stone



De'Vante Land



Jacquelyn Brice



Hannah Miller



Joshua Mangion



Kendra Wendeln
Program Coordinator
& Drill Design



Michael Carpenter
Artistic Coordinator



Michael Miller
Brass Arranger

MEET THE CINCINNATI TRADITION DESIGN TEAM



www.cincinnatiatradition.org



Alex Beltran
Battery Arranger



CJ Barrow
Front Ensemble Arranger
& Sound Design



Cody Matson
Graphic Design



**ANDREW
WHITMAN**
BRASS CAPTION HEAD

Andrew is originally from Doylestown, Ohio. He graduated from the University of Mount Union with a Bachelor of Music Education in 2003. Andrew performed in the Bluecoats Drum and Bugle Corps in 2001 and 2002 in which he was a trumpet soloist. He also served as a trumpet soloist for the Bluecoats Alumni Corps in 2022 and for Elyria in Blue, the Bluecoats alumni project, where he contributed as an arranger as well, from 2014-2017.

Upon graduation, Andrew began his tenure as the Brass Caption Head for the Miamiburg High School Marching Band, where he has been teaching since 2018. He has also played the same role with the WOI Winds program at Miamiburg since its inception in 2014. Andrew has been meeting the Central High School Marching Band since 2023 as well, and he has held a successful private lesson studio with students from both of these school districts for just as long. Andrew has also been a part of Vandalia Winds since its inaugural season in 2013 as the music coordinator and he is excited to be joining Cincinnati Tradition for the 2026 season!

GUARD STAFF



DARREN
MICKENS



ALEX
BOLENDER



ELAINE
FITE



KIRSTIN
SHATZER



MEREDITH
ANDERSON



CALEB
BROWN

GUARD STAFF



NIKKI
ROSS



CHRIS
SPARKS



BRANDON
SMITH



TYLER
SMITH

GUARD STAFF



KAYLEIGH
HIND



LEXI
MEYER



SOPHIE
FOLTZ



MEAGAN
MC PHERSON



MEGAN
VAN EERDEN



MOLLY
MURPHY

2026 DESIGN TEAM



ALEC SMITH
Visual Designer
Program Coordinator



ALESSANDRA GRECO
Color Guard Designer
Visual Design Coordinator



DAN SHINOZAKI
Battery Arranger



SEAN FERGUSON
Brass Arranger



SETH LAMPERT
Front Ensemble Arranger
Sound Designer

LEARN MORE: SEVENTHREGIMENT.ORG/STAFF

Connecticut Hurricanes

Welcoming...

Dr. Ricardo Brown



Brass Caption
Supervisor

2026

Announcements

Crossmen

2026
EDUCATION
LEADERSHIP



Ryan Alm
Education Coordinator



Tony Mencio
Visual Caption Manager



Nathan Aupied
Assistant Visual Caption
Manager



Russell Wiley
Assistant Visual Caption
Manager



Rachel Montañez
Color Guard Caption
Manager



Andres Garcia
Assistant Color Guard
Caption Manager



Connor Vaughn
Brass Caption Manager



Dr. Libby Ando
Assistant Brass Caption
Manager



Tyler Broadhurst
Percussion Caption Manager



Noah Avelar
Front Ensemble Coordinator



Alicia Turner
Orbital Coordinator



Abby Rieger
Drum Major Specialist



2026 VISUAL STAFF



mike castellano
VISUAL CAPTION HEAD



quamel francis
ASST. VISUAL CAPTION HEAD



alex morris
VISUAL TECHNICIAN



andrew denburg
VISUAL TECHNICIAN



chris marziliano
VISUAL TECHNICIAN



chrissy shannon
VISUAL TECHNICIAN



connor carbonell
VISUAL TECHNICIAN



mike moller
VISUAL TECHNICIAN



nicole diamond
VISUAL TECHNICIAN



noreen lanasa
VISUAL TECHNICIAN



sophia delgado
VISUAL TECHNICIAN

80
ANNIVERSARY

don. dabe the way we were!

THE GARFIELD CADETS

60 Events in 80 DAYS

1984 JOURNAL

Details of daily life captured through the eyes of 17-yr-old rookie mellophone player DAVID WELCH.

Thanks to publisher Scooter Pirtle this journal was in the final edition of "THE MIDDLE HORN LEADER" magazine in 1995.



JULY 20 in Pennsylvania

THE LAST DAY BEFORE THE START OF THE SECOND TOUR. THE MARCHING MEMBERS WERE PART OF THE FIELD LINING CREW. WE HAD A PRETTY GOOD PRACTICE FIELD TODAY, UNLIKE THE PARKING LOT WE USED BEFORE THE TOUR. BACK THEN, CARS WERE OFTEN PARKED ON OUR FIELD WHEN WE NEEDED TO PRACTICE. **WHAT TO DO?** JUST PICK UP THOSE CARS AND CARRY THEM OFF OUR FIELD!

JULY 7 ALLENTOWN Pa "DCI EAST"



TIPTOE THROUGH THE TULIPS...

AS THE HORN LINE QUICKLY DISCOVERED, THE USUAL STADIUM WARMUP AREA HAD BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THE LOCAL DUCKS. NEED MORE BE SAID?!



GARFIELD MEMBER BARB MORONEY DEMONSTRATES WHY MOST MELLOPHONE PLAYERS ARE NOT RECOGNIZED ON THE STREET.

AUGUST 8 DAMARISCOTTA Maine

IN MY OPINION MAINE IS ONE OF OUR MOST BEAUTIFUL STATES. WE WERE ON OUR WAY FROM MONTREAL, QUEBEC TO LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS. WE HAD A DAY STOP-OVER IN DAMARISCOTTA, MAINE. RIGHT AFTER OUR BUFFET BREAKFAST, IN A WATERWAY BEHIND THE RESTAURANT, NEARLY HALF THE CORPS JUMPED IN THE WATER WITH THEIR CLOTHES ON... A MAJOR HINT TO THE STAFF **WE NEEDED A DAY OFF!** SO - THE NEXT STOP - A NEARBY **BEACH** FOR A DAY OF FUN BEFORE AN EVENING EXHIBITION.



CORPS WORLD FAX:



IT'S A FACT... 3 CHAMPION DRUM CORPS HAD THEIR BEGINNINGS THROUGH THE BOY SCOUT ASSOCIATION IN THE 30's - 40's AND 50's MANY CORPS BEGAN AS BOY SCOUT PARADE CORPS!

TWO OF THE MOST FAMOUS ARE DCI'S **THE MADISON SCOUTS** AND **THE CAVALIERS!**

IN CANADA THE 12 TIME CON. NATIONAL CHAMPION **TORONTO OPTIMISTS** BEGAN AS A SCOUT TROOP BAND IN 1952!



IT'S A FACT... THE KILTIES OF RACINE, WI... AN ALL MALE CORPS FORMED IN 1935 WENT CO-ED IN 1970. IF THEY WERE A TOP-12 UNIT.

IT'S A FACT... IN EUROPE JUDGES FROM DRUM CORPS DEUTSCHLAND SHOWS ARE DUTCHMEN JUDGING IN ENGLISH TO BE UNDERSTOOD BY GERMAN INSTRUCTORS!

IT'S A FACT... FAMED BAND LEADER **MAYNARD FERGUSON** IS AN HONORARY MEMBER OF BRIDGEMEN OF BAYONNE. HE WAS MADE A MEMBER IN 1980 FOLLOWING A CONCERT...



Have come together to showcase a massive -- and steadily growing -- museum of marching memorabilia!



The archive now includes more than 150,000 items under dozens of different categories. It is currently housed at the famous Archer-Epler VFW Post (*left*) in Upper Darby, PA (suburban Philadelphia), home of the Musketeers Senior Corps. Plans are in the works to relocate the collection to a temperature-controlled building that will include displays of much of the accumulated material. One day fans will be able to visit and view much of what archivist Bill Ives has saved. In the meantime, it is possible to visit the VFW Post by arranging a time to see the collection. Make an appointment by calling Bill Ives at 610-937-6555.

The collection showcases . . .

- More than 400 historic uniforms
- All types of chrome and brass bugles
- Drum corps contest flyers
- Corps jackets
- Thousands of photographs
- Battery percussion
- Embroidered patches
- Rifles and sabers
- Booster buttons
- Scores and recaps back to the early 1920s
- Cloisoneé pins
- Drum corps magazines, tabloid newspapers
- Program and yearbooks
- Flags
- Trophies
- Mugs
- Props
- T-shirts
- Artwork
- Shakos
- Posters



- Pit equipment
- Blog posts
- Aussie hats
- Flight caps
- Radio commercials
- Newspaper clippings
- Keyboards
- Hardcover books
- Softcover books
- Paintings
- Record albums
- Videotapes
- Blu-ray discs
- 8-track tapes
- Cassette tapes
- Decals
- Bumper stickers
- Pennants
- Illustrations
- Key chains
- TV commercials
- and much more!

Bill Ives is always looking for additional items to add to the collection.

Please contact him by e-mailing ives.bill@mac.com.

The museum is an IRS-registered non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation with a tax ID --#39-1834440 -- for tax-decuctable donations of items or cash to help the museum continue expanding the archive and preserving the activity's historic past!

