



April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Directors,

Greetings from Mount Pleasant, North Carolina! As the school year winds down and your calendar is quickly filling with possible fall contest dates, I wanted to make you aware of the date of the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Mount Pleasant *Showcase of Champions*. This year, *Showcase* will be held on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Keep in mind that this event includes a small class champion caption (1A-2A-3A) and a large class champion caption (4A-5A). This will allow for shared success between small and large ensembles.

While many marching band festivals are planned for the late afternoon/evening, *Showcase* is traditionally an early show, which begins at approximately 9:00 AM and usually concludes around 4:00 PM. This will allow for those bands who enjoy “double-headers” to do so with ease. I will make every effort to accommodate bands participating in one, or multiple contests on this particular date. Should you have questions, please call me at 704-224-4695 or 704-267-6707. You may also choose to email me at [keith.lee@cabarrus.12.nc.us](mailto:keith.lee@cabarrus.12.nc.us) if you prefer. No question is too trivial! I hope that you will consider our festival as part of your fall calendar. Thank you for your support of music education.

In the Spirit of Music,

Keith J. Lee, Director  
Mount Pleasant Bands  
[www.mpband.org](http://www.mpband.org)



## Judges for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Showcase of Champions

### Music: Andrew Craft

Andrew Craft is the Secondary Music Administrator for Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools and Program Administrator for the WSFCS Summer Enrichment Theatre Arts Program. In addition to his role as an arts administrator in WSFCS, he also assists with the Hanes Magnet School band program, one of the few grade IV middle school band programs in NC. Prior to taking the role as Secondary Music Administrator, Mr. Craft enjoyed success as the Director of Bands at Ronald W. Reagan High School, where the program saw unprecedented growth in quality and quantity growing to three concert bands, three jazz bands, and a 146 member marching band. His concert and jazz bands have earned numerous ‘Superior’ ratings at Music Performance Adjudication (MPA), his marching bands have received multiple marching “Band of the Day” grand championships, and he consistently had the highest number of students receive placements in audition based honors ensembles. Under his direction, the Reagan High School Jazz Ensemble I and Wind Ensemble were accepted to and performed at the North Carolina Music Educators Association Professional Development Conference. In the same year, the marching *Band of Raiders* was invited to and performed in the 2016 London New Year’s Day Parade. He was selected by his peers as the Forsyth County Band Director of the Year (2013), Reagan High School Teacher of the Year (2014), and received the American School Band Directors Association’s (ASBDA) Encore Award in 2014. He was inducted into the ASBDA in 2016.

In addition to his teaching and administrative responsibilities, Mr. Craft has instructed conducting and leadership activities at both the Bands of America Drum Major Institute and the Western Carolina University Drum Major and Leadership Academy. He is currently serving as the Northwest District Bandmasters Association Chair and North Carolina Music Educators Association Music Program Leader chair. He also in demand as a clinician, arranger, and drill writer for competitive marching bands across the southeastern United States.

Mr. Craft earned his Bachelor of Science in Instrumental Music Education from Western Carolina University and a Master of Music degree in Saxophone Performance from the University of Massachusetts. He studied with conducting and score study with Frank Battisti,

drill design with Bob Buckner, and saxophone with Lynn Klock. After completing the WSFCS Explorers and Trailblazers programs for prospective administrators, he received his Administrative Licensure from Gardner-Webb University in 2018. His professional affiliations include National Association for Music Education, North Carolina Music Educators Association, Pi Lambda Theta Honor Society, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, the North American Saxophone Alliance, the American School Band Directors Association and is a NC Teaching Fellow. He currently resides in Pfafftown with his wife, Beth, and twin children, Anderson and Ada.

### **Marching Performance: Matt Liner**

A graduate of Appalachian State University, Matt Liner is currently in his 21<sup>st</sup> year of teaching and is the band director at Meadowlark Middle School in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Ensembles under Mr. Liner's direction have received consistent superior ratings at the district/region concert and jazz band festivals. Each year, numerous students from his program regularly qualify for membership in county, district, region and all-state honors ensembles. Meadowlark has also had consistent participation in the district solo and ensemble music performance adjudication.

Mr. Liner has had the honor of conducting several honors jazz/concert band clinics and has adjudicated marching and concert band competitions/festivals/MPA's across the southeast. He has also had the privilege of instructing three ensembles that have performed at the North Carolina Music Educator's Annual Professional Development Conference.

Matt was a member of the world championship finalist Carolina Crown Drum and Bugle Corps and was a part of the corps' instructional staff. As a visual designer, Mr. Liner programs for several marching bands across the Carolinas.

In 2011 Mr. Liner was selected as the Band Director of the Year by the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Band Directors Association. He is also the 2013-2014 recipient of the Northwest District Bandmasters Association Award of Excellence and the 2019-2020 recipient of the North Carolina Music Educators Association Jazz Section West Region Educator of the Year.

Matt has served as a member of the board of directors for the Northwest District Bandmasters Association and is the current chair-elect of this organization. Mr. Liner is also a past-chairman for the North Carolina Music Educators Association Jazz Section. Mr. Liner's professional affiliations include the National Association for Music Education, North Carolina Music Educators Association, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and the American School Band Directors Association.

Matt, his wife Laura, and their three-year-old daughter Naomi, reside in Lexington, NC with their cat Harvey.

### **General Effect: Kirk Godbey**

Kirk Godbey is originally from Radford, Virginia. Mr. Godbey received his bachelor's degree in music education from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia and a master's

degree in Music Education from Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC. Mr. Godbey also received a master's degree in public school leadership from Winthrop University and received his National Board Certification in Music Education in 2005. Mr. Godbey is currently the band director at Banks Trail Middle School in Fort Mill, SC and assists with the Fort Mill High School band. He has 34 years of teaching experience, all in the Fort Mill School District and is a member of the National Association for Music Educators, Phi Beta Mu, the South Carolina Band Director's Association (SCBDA), the South Carolina Music Educators Conference, and has been on the Advisory Board for Carolina Crown Drum Corps. Mr. Godbey is also an avid drill writer, clinician, and adjudicator of concert and marching bands throughout the southeast.

### **Percussion: Matt Mallery**

Mr. Matthew Mallery has over 16 years of experience in Music Education as a Band Director, Percussion Instructor, Arranger, Adjudicator, and Clinician. Most recently, Matt taught for 7 years at Marvin Ridge Middle School where he co-directed the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade bands, Pep Band, and Percussion Ensemble. He was also an assistant with the Marvin Ridge High School Band.

Immediately following his graduation from Myers Park High School, Matt began instructing percussion ensembles in the Charlotte area in the summer of 2005 at David W. Butler High School, where he served as the Director of Percussion, arranger, and instructor for over 7 years. Expanding his teachings, Matt has also worked with many other high school percussion sections both as an arranger and consultant including: Myers Park, Butler, Providence, Independence, Northwest Cabarrus, Parkwood, Piedmont, Weddington, and more recently Marvin Ridge. His percussion ensembles have received numerous high percussion awards at area contests.

Matt's professional affiliations include the North Carolina Music Educators Association, both the Vic Firth and Remo Education teams, and NAFME (National Association for Music Education, recently MENC). He is former member of the Carolina Panther's Official Drumline "PurrCussion" that performs at every Panther's home game.

Matt holds both a Bachelor of Music degree and a Masters of the Arts in Teaching degree from Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC. While attending Winthrop University Matt performed with the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Percussion Ensemble, and the West African Drum Ensemble.

Recently, Matt became an Assistant Principal in Fort Mill, SC.

### **Colorguard: Nikki Crawford-Jones**

Biography to come.....

### **Drum Major: Blair Smith**

Blair Smith recently retired after 30 years of service to the North Carolina public education system. His final 25 years of service were at Central Cabarrus High School and Jay M.

Robinson High School in Concord, NC. Blair is from Mechanicsville, Virginia. He began his 30-year teaching career at Chaloner Middle School in Roanoke Rapids. He moved to Central Cabarrus High School in 1991.

Mr. Smith's concert bands have performed under numerous national educators. His bands have received Superior ratings at all grade levels as well as commissioning and premiering compositions several new band compositions. His Wind Ensemble has performed at the North Carolina Music Educator's Conference.

His marching bands have received consistent Superior ratings at local, regional and national performances. As a prominent Bands of America participant his bands were consistent finalists at the regional and national level. His Central Cabarrus Marching Band was the last North Carolina band to make finals at BOA Grand Nationals. Bands under his direction have performed for two Governors of North Carolina and the twice for the Carolina Panthers.

He is a member of ASBDA, PAS and NBA. Mr. Smith is the immediate past president for the North Carolina Chapter of the National Band Association, a position he held from 1995 to 2009. He is the past chairman of the South-Central District Bandmasters Association and a charter member of the North Carolina Marching Band Committee. Mr. Smith served three terms as the Secretary for the North Carolina Bandmasters Association and received the Award of Excellence from The North Carolina Bandmasters Association. He is an active clinician, adjudicator and guest conductor. He was elected into the North Carolina Band Masters Hall of Fame in 2019.

His wife of 31 years, Linda, is also a retired music educator. Their 2 sons Aaron and Drew are a constant joy and financial drain. Mr. Smith is a solid 25 handicap golfer, but he is getting better.



## Contest Information

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Complete the online registration (preferred) at <https://forms.gle/971Kc6WQezD5hFxM8> or you can complete a copy of the registration form found on the website to submit via e-mail or mail.
- Please mail you \$75 registration fee to:  

Mount Pleasant High School  
Attn: Keith Lee  
700 Walker Road  
Mount Pleasant, NC 28124
- Make checks out to **Mount Pleasant Band Boosters, Inc.**
- If you prefer to pay via credit card/debit card, go to our Paypal link at <http://mpband.org/payments/> to make your payment. In the special instructions, please put **SHOWCASE – Your School’s Band Name** (ex. SHOWCASE – Mt. Pleasant High School Band)
- Bands are scheduled based on when all registration requirements are fulfilled. Please send your money in ASAP.
- Deadline to register/postmark date is **Friday, 11 September 2020.**

### CLASSIFICATION OF BANDS

- Class sizes have been determined based on horns in an effort to keep bands of similar make-up in the correct class. Anticipated numbers for each classification are as follows:
  - 1A: Up to 25 wind instrumentalists
  - 2A: 26 – 40 wind instrumentalists
  - 3A: 41 – 55 wind instrumentalists
  - 4A: 56 – 70 wind instrumentalists
  - 5A: 71+ wind instrumentalists
- Please understand that this is not a perfect science. We will make adjustments if need be based on the band make-up of the groups who register. We will notify you well in advance of any shifts to this model.

### **ADJUDICATION OF BANDS**

- One judge will be assigned to evaluate in each of the following areas:
  - Music
  - Marching
  - General Effect
  - Colorguard
  - Drum Major
  - Percussion
- Scoring system will be based on a percentage total set up. A band's rating and placement will be based off of the following:
  - Music: 40% of the final score
  - Marching: 30% of the final score
  - General Effect: 30% of the final score
- In the event of a tie, the highest music score breaks the tie.

### **AWARDS**

- In each class, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place trophies will be awarded for the following captions:
  - Music
  - Marching
  - General Effect
  - Colorguard
  - Drum Major
  - Percussion
  - Band Placement

- There will be two spirit awards awarded:
  - **Matthew Edenburn Esprit De Corps Award:** Presented to the band in the 1A-2A-3A classification that exhibits excellence in professionalism, work ethic, selflessness, and pride. These are all true characteristics of a champion. Matt was a Mount Pleasant Band graduate in the class of 2005. As a volunteer firefighter and medical first responder, Matt was on the scene for many of the accidents that are all too common for high school aged drivers. On November 23, 2007, Matt was on his way home for Thanksgiving when he was involved in a head-on collision with another vehicle. After an eleven-day fight for his life, Matt went home to his Heavenly Father on December 3. Known to many as a selfless hero, and to all as a friend, Matt will never be forgotten by the Mount Pleasant community. In memory of Matt, the Mount Pleasant Band has created this award to embody the qualities that Matt exemplified each and every day during his short time with us here on earth.
  - **Daniel Boles Spirit of Music Award:** This award is presented to the band in the 4A-5A classification that exhibits professionalism, work ethic, selflessness, and pride as observed by other bands and spectators. On June 13, 2002, Daniel, a rising senior in the Mount Pleasant Band, was killed in a car accident while returning home from a beach trip. Daniel marched tuba in the band and was loved, not only by his fellow band members, but also by all those who knew him. There was rarely a time when he was not smiling and laughing--spreading that laughter to everyone around him. Though he is sorely missed, Daniel will always live on in the heart of each band member at Mount Pleasant.
- There will be two pit crew awarded (one for the 1A-2A-3A classifications and one for the 4A-5A classifications):
  - **Jerry Linn Gaskins Steel Wheels Award:** This award is presented to the pit crews that exhibit the best qualities of a marching band's volunteer support team. This award celebrates everyone who volunteers their time, talents and love to make these performances a reality. Jerry joined the Band Boosters in 2013, the same year his grandson, Noah Taylor, joined the Mount Pleasant Band. Jerry volunteered his time and support at every opportunity becoming a friendly face and advocate for the band. Jerry passed away July 8, 2016. He might be gone, but Jerry has the best seat in the house to watch his beloved Mount Pleasant Marching Band.
- Grand Champion trophies will be awarded to the highest placing band in the 1A-2A-3A classification and to highest placing band in the 4A-5A classification.

## PERFORMANCE TIMING

- All bands are given a 15-minute window to perform. This is to include set-up and getting off the field.
- It is imperative we follow this. Most bands who come to our show will be doing a double-header that day. We must follow a strict timeline so we can get you down the road for your next hit time.
- On field warm-ups are fine but remember your 15-minute window.
- With this being most bands first show of the year, we will have some level of flexibility built into the schedule. On-field issues, such as electronic issues, will be considered. In the instances of forgotten prop items, instruments, etc., we will have to start without those items. Our campus layout is way too big to just “run back to the trailer.” By the time you get those items, we will have encompassed your performance time, plus some, before you have even played your first note.

## **ELECTRONICS**

- A power strip is made available for you to plug in to for your electronic needs.
- You must provide your own extension cords.
- **Please Note:** We are not responsible for power failure. Secondary options **may** be available but prepare in the event there are no other options.

## **LOGISTICAL PLANNING**

- In our initial registration form, we will gather information to get us started on our initial planning. If you are unsure of certain pieces of information at this time, no worries.
- We will be sending out another form by mid-August to get your most up-to-date information. This will help us to finalize our logistical plan.
- For those who will be doing a “double header” that day:
  - Due to the schedules of all the contests around us, it is imperative that we work together to create the best scheduling scenario for you. I work closely with the contests around us to ensure we can get you here, perform, and out of here in a timely fashion. We work hard to ensure you have a great experience performing experience here. We also work hard to keep your mind at ease in trying to negotiate through the logistics of doing a “double header.”

- We will be offering to you an option (at a later date) to order bagged lunches for your students to help you ensure your students are fed and ready to roll for your next contest. Order forms will be sent out closer to the date.