

Marching Percussion at PASIC16

By Gene Fambrough

How do you follow up a fantastic selection of marching percussion artists and sessions at last year's PASIC? By including even more diverse artists and even more performing ensembles, that's how. We are fortunate to be witnessing an age of incredible growth in the marching arts, while at the same time seeing integration of other styles into the arranging and performing styles of all groups. From an outstanding panel discussion with some of the most highly respected professionals, to show design of a championship indoor drumline, to drum corps front ensemble arranging/pedagogical techniques, to appearances by an HBCU drumline as well as a DCI percussion section, this convention will have something for everyone.

PANEL DISCUSSION

The Craft of Marching Percussion Battery Arranging: It's All About Clarity

Neal Flum will lead a discussion of the strategic forethought that goes into constructing a battery score, be it drum corps or indoor marching percussion. Tom Aungst, Thom Hannum, Colin McNutt, and Paul Renick will use their respective 2016 shows to address some of the compositional techniques that they employ in achieving "clarity." They will discuss some of the elements common to wind arranging and four-part voice writing (for example: voice leading, use of timbre, voice pairing, texture, augmentation, etc.) and show how those elements are utilized in their arranging for the modern marching percussion battery. The overall goal of the panel discussion will be to show evidence in these arrangers' work that their achievements are not happenstance but, rather, the result of deliberate and well-thought-out approaches to designing their battery arrangements.

IAIN MOYER, JASON IHNAT, AND CPIT

The Genius and The Assassin: The Modern-Day Front Ensemble Arranger and Instructor

In the current marching percussion landscape, there is a delineation with regard to the overall staff duties of the front ensemble. On one hand, one person often creates the "design" or arrangements that a group performs; and on the other hand, the day-to-day instruction of the group is delegated to another person or group of teachers. That is not to say that the arranger doesn't instruct, or that the instructor doesn't arrange, but currently there appears to be a separation between these positions.

The arranging side of this clinic will highlight the thought process of the arranger (Moyer) and what went into the creation of the music itself. The instructional side of this clinic will highlight the thought process of the instructor (Ihnat) and what went into the pedagogical aspects of the ensemble's performance preparation. The 2016 Cadets Front Ensemble will assist with musical demonstrations, and numerous examples from their 2016 show will be first introduced from the creative/compositional standpoint, and then will be broken down from a pedagogical standpoint.

NORTH CAROLINA A&T STATE UNIVERSITY COLD STEEL DRUMLINE

Best of Both Worlds: A Hybrid Drumline in a Traditional Marching World

Innovation. Technicality. Entertainment. Showmanship. These are a few of the characteristics that describe the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University drumline, better known as "Cold Steel." From the inclusion of hybrid rudiments, stick tricks, and visuals, to backflips, stunts, and drum tosses, Cold Steel believes that nothing is



Iain MOYER & Jason IHNAT
Friday, Nov. 11, 3:00 P.M.
Marching Clinic



North Carolina AT&T State University
COLD STEEL DRUMLINE
Friday, Nov. 11, 4:00 P.M.
Marching Clinic/Performance

impossible. The goal is to satisfy two groups: the percussionists and the fans. Integrating a wide rudimental vocabulary within their compositions coincides with the visual attraction and high-energy showmanship that audiences love.

Through the clinic, “Best of Both Worlds: A Hybrid Drumline in a Traditional Marching World,” it is the intention to showcase the fluidity in which the NCA&T drumline implements both corps and showstyle techniques. While maintaining the essence of showstyle bands, an element of groove can be found throughout each composition. It is often assumed that most showstyle percussion sections perform simplified arrangements; this could not be farther from the truth. Executing complex rudimental rhythms within their warm-ups, cadences, and features allows the Cold Steel drumline to challenge each individual player and raise the standard of performance for all HBCUs.

MUSIC CITY MYSTIQUE

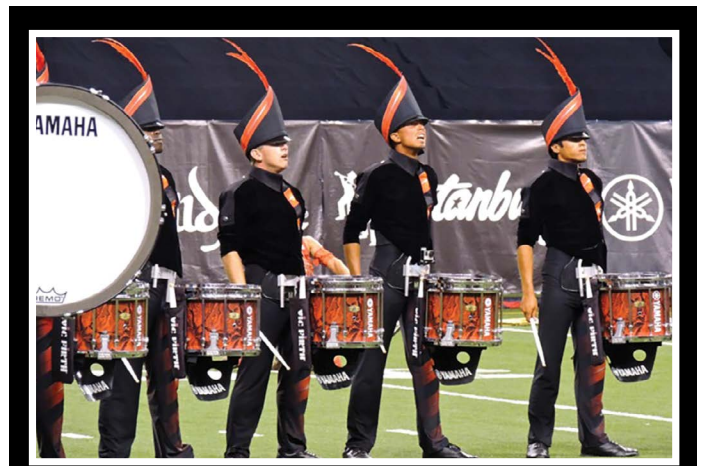
Started in 1994, Music City Mystique has played an integral part in shaping the WGI percussion landscape as we currently know it. In this clinic/performance, the group will dive into the minds of their design team (Shane Gwaltney, Matt Jordan, Matt Filosa, Josh Nelson, Don Click) as they discuss the process of putting a show together and the challenges it presents. In addition, the Music City Mystique Ensemble will demonstrate multiple parts of their 2016 program to demonstrate how the ensemble performs at the highest artistic and musical levels.

The design team will discuss the show design process from the inception of the show to the performance on the floor. They will provide insight into the process of creating a successful show concept, as well as talk about the difficulties they encounter as a team when creating and how they overcome them. The next portion of the clinic will focus on the performance of various sections of their 2016 program, “In Bloom,” to show how design directly affects execution.

The group’s ultimate goal is to provide insight and inspiration through their members’ performance and design team’s insight. Education is important to Music City Mystique and they hope to have the opportunity to share at PASIC16.

CAROLINA CROWN DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS

Using music from their 2016 competitive show, the battery and front ensemble sections of this outstanding drum and bugle corps will demon-



Carolina Crown
DRUM & BUGLE CORPS
Saturday, Nov. 12, 4:00 P.M.
Marching Clinic

strate rehearsal techniques, design, and musical approach that help them achieve such high performance quality. The Crown percussion section is under the direction of Thom Hannum (percussion director/arranger), Tom Aungst (percussion caption head/arranger) and Jim Ancona (front ensemble arranger and supervisor). Undoubtedly one of the most exciting drum corps in recent years, this clinic session should provide valuable insight for students wanting to be a part of this group in the future.

PN



Music City MYSTIQUE
Saturday, Nov. 12, 2:00 P.M.
Marching Clinic/Performance

Marching Committee
Panel Discussion
Thursday, Nov. 10, 2:00 P.M.

Marching Individuals Competitions
Thursday, Nov. 10, 5:00 P.M.

Small Ensembles Competitions
Thursday, Nov. 10, 6:45 P.M.

PASIC16 Marching Festival
Friday, Nov. 11