

# Scott Johnson and Friends

## 60 years of championship snare solos, and the people who played them

By Gene Fambrough

One of the more intriguing sessions for this year's PASIC will be a time-traveling journey through the development of the rudimental snare drum solo—in particular, the solos used in the Drum Corps International “solo and ensemble” competition as performed by the individuals who composed them.

Scott Johnson describes the impetus of this clinic session as follows: “Last PASIC (2017), I was at the System Blue booth talking with Jeff Queen. We started discussing snare solos, and how they have evolved through the years. I look over at the other side of the booth and I see Charlie Poole standing there. I tell Jeff that Charlie won snare individuals in the '60s. Since I won in the '70s, we started to come up with a list of some of the winners for each decade—at least, the ones I know. When we realized we had six decades of winners, we said we have to do a clinic. I thought it would be great to see and hear the evolution of snare solos from the '60s to this present decade. After contacting everyone about the availability of doing this, we all agreed.”

Each performer will play his solo (or at least an excerpt) from the decade he won. Johnson has stated the important aspect about the session is for all the performers to describe why they made the choices they did in constructing their solo. It will be a bit of a time crunch; each performer will only get around seven minutes to play and/or describe his solo. Obviously, with six decades of award-winning snare drummers, they will have to play something together to finish out the clinic.

Make sure to work this clinic/performance session into your schedule at PASIC18. It will surely be a unique treat to see all of these talented performers together and to hear the evolution of the championship snare drum solo.

The solos will be presented in chronological order, and the featured performers (with short biographies) are as follows:

### 1960s: CHARLIE POOLE

Charlie Poole won the 1968, 1970, and 1971 All American (Pre-DCI) National Individual Championship. Among the numerous drum corps and marching bands for which he has instructed or



consulted are the 27th Lancers, Star of Indiana, The Bluecoats, Pembroke Imperials, East Coast Jazz, Citations, Connecticut Hurricanes, 27th Lancer Reunion Corps, Dartmouth High School, Nazareth (Penn.) High School, and Malden High School. For the past 20 years he has been on the faculty of the Everett Public Schools (Everett, Mass.) as an instrumental teacher, and he currently holds the positions of Everett High School Marching Band Director and Percussion Ensemble Director. He has been a judge for DCI, WGI, PAS, and BOA events.

### 1970s: SCOTT JOHNSON

Scott Johnson is perhaps one of the most well-known figures in marching percussion today. He has been the recipient of 18 DCI championships, 14 DCI High Percussion titles, two WGI championships, 3 DCA championships, 2 DCA High Percussion titles, 10 DCE championships, 9 DCE High Percussion titles, and 10 High Percussion titles in Japan. He is the 1977 DCI “Triple Crown” winner: Individuals, High Percussion, and DCI Championship, as well as the 1978 PAS Individual Snare champion. Scott is honored to have been inducted into the DCI Hall



**Scott Johnson  
and Friends**  
Thursday, Nov. 15, 3:00 P.M.  
Marching Clinic/Performance



Of Fame and WGI Hall Of Fame in 2012, as well as the World Drum Corp Hall Of Fame in 2015. He has served as a judge for WGI, PAS, BOA, and SCPA.

### 1980s: JEFF PROSPERIE

When Jeff Prosperie isn't dodging axes on live TV, he serves as the Principal Drummer for the West Point Hellcats, the showpiece band for the United



### 2000s: CASEY BROHARD

Casey Brohard was a member of the Concord Blue Devils from 2002–06, serving as the snare drum section leader in 2005/06. He won the DCI Snare Individuals competition in 2005. He also performed in the 2002 Winter Olympics at the age of 17 and is one of the original performers for BD Entertainment and has had the privilege to perform all over Europe, Japan, and Korea. He currently works with James Logan H.S., the Sacramento Freelancers, and with Amador Valley H.S.

ship. He recently completed the summer of 2018 as the Blue Devils snare section leader. **PN**

States Army and the United States Military Academy. He is the only person to achieve the “Triple Crown” of snare drum individual championships: DCI '88, PAS '88, DCA '07. He has served as a DCI judge for the past 18 years, judging finals eight times and snare individuals 15 times, and he was the former caption head and arranger for the Phantom Regiment. He was elected to the World Drum Corps Hall of Fame in 2018. Interestingly, Prosperie served as the I&E judge for Casey Brohard and Brandon Olander, also appearing in this session.



### 1990s: JEFF QUEEN

Jeff Queen has become one of the most familiar faces in snare drumming over the past two decades since starring as an original cast member and soloist in the Broadway production *Blast!* from 1999–2003. He won the DCI Snare Individuals competition in '94 and '95, as well as the PAS Snare Individuals the same years. He is currently the percussion director for Carmel High School in Carmel, Indiana and an adjunct professor of percussion at Butler University.

### 2010s: BRANDON OLANDER



Brandon Olander rose to internet fame in 2010 when, as a 12-year-old System Blue camp participant, he “sat in” with the Blue Devils snare line and held his own. He went on to join the corps as the youngest snare drummer ever in 2014 at the age of 16, and in 2015 won the DCI “Triple Crown”: Snare Individuals, High Percussion, and DCI Champion-