

Marching Percussion at PASIC 2019

By Gene Fambrough

This year's PASIC is just around the corner, and once again there will be a variety of fantastic sessions for the marching percussion enthusiast. The educational clinic this year will again be led by Joe Hobbs, this time with the Vandegrift High School (Texas) percussion section. The clinic will break down their exercise program, approaches to music, full curriculum for the fall, class structure, middle school checkpoints, and an overall look at how they approach percussion. The panel discussion will be "A Conversation in Pageantry Auditions," led by Iain Moyer (Boston Crusaders), and will include an "all-star" list of panelists discussing many aspects of the audition process and what they look for in potential members. The ensemble

session will feature the incredible Santa Clara Vanguard percussion section, led by Paul and Sandi Rennick.

JOE HOBBS AND THE VANDEGRIFT HIGH SCHOOL DRUMLINE

This clinic is designed to provide a behind-the-scenes look at the Vandegrift Percussion program. The main talking points will include an in-depth look at the skill sets used on a daily basis, "chop building" and applying skill sets to musical selections (for both battery and front ensemble), their specific approach to show music in a BOA ensemble, and balance within the wind section—including tricks to help receive credit and recognition while also supporting (and not over-balancing) the wind section.

Other topics to be addressed will include their daily schedule, the middle school schedule, and rehearsal structure and time. They will also spend some time discussing the role of concert percussion and region music preparation during the fall semester, demonstrating that musicianship is a key part of the success of their ensemble whether it is in the fall or the spring.

This clinic will be packed with lots of tips and tricks used at Vandegrift; it should be a lot of fun, containing strong playing and dialogue regarding high school percussion education.

"I GOT A SPOT"—A CONVERSATION IN PAGEANTRY AUDITIONS

This panel discussion is an opportuni-



Joe Hobbs and the Vandegrift High School Drumline

Thursday, Nov. 14, 4:00 P.M.
Marching Clinic/Performance

ty for four of the top educators and designers in the country to talk about the process they utilize to select the members of their ensembles. With the wide spread popularity of the WGI and DCI circuits, there are more and more groups to audition for, and the competition for membership has intensified. A potential member's ability to prepare material, adapt to new styles of play, and possess a team-friendly attitude are paramount to their success.

Topics of this panel discussion will include:

- the use of online resources to prepare for your audition;
- what to expect in group session rehearsals;
- how to prepare for your individual audition with a staff member;
- you got the spot: what does your winter development include?
- you didn't receive a spot: what are your steps to success next season?

The panelists for this discussion include some of the most well-known names in contemporary marching percussion. Jim Ancona is currently front ensemble caption supervisor and arranger for Carolina Crown and has worked with Star of Indiana, Santa Clara Vanguard, The Cadets, and The Cavaliers. Colin McNutt is the battery arranger and director of percussion with the Boston Crusaders and has previously served in the same capacity for The Ca-



Marching Panel
 Friday, Nov. 15, 1:00 P.M.
 L to R: Jim Ancona, Colin McNutt, Iain Moyer

dets. Iain Moyer (panel moderator) is the front ensemble arranger for the Boston Crusaders, having also served in that capacity for The Cadets. Paul Rennick (see information below) will be the final panelist in this discussion.

**PAUL AND SANDI RENNICK—
 SANTA CLARA VANGUARD**

In a feature clinic session, the members of the 2019 Santa Clara Vanguard percussion section will present their technique program as well as musical selections from their 2019 field show. Paul Rennick is the percussion supervisor and battery arranger, having won the Fred Sanford Best Percussion Performance trophy seven times during his tenure with Santa Clara and previously with the Phantom Regiment. Together with his wife, Sandi Rennick (front ensemble arranger), they will discuss

excerpts from Santa Clara's 2019 production, "Vox Eversio." With Santa Clara having firmly established themselves at the forefront of the activity with "high percussion" awards in 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019, this session will surely be a full house!

I look forward to seeing what all of these sessions offer, not only in terms of their educational value, but for high quality performance as well. See you there! [PN](#)



Paul and Sandi Rennick and the Santa Clara Vanguard
 Friday, Nov. 15, 5:00 P.M. & Saturday, Nov. 16, 3:00 P.M.
 Marching Clinic/Performance