

Marching Percussion Sessions at PASIC 2015

By Gene Fambrough

As the marching percussion community continues to evolve, the diversity of clinics and groups appearing at PASIC this year will certainly reflect some of the many facets and approaches of our exciting genre. Building on our heritage and tradition, Mark Reilly and the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps will present a joint concert with the British Marines Drum Section. Focusing on education, Joe Hobbs will present a session with the Newman Smith drumline, covering warm-ups and the concept of “breaking down” show music. Coming back for an encore of last year’s highly successful presentation, John Wooten and friends will again present an interactive clinic on visuals and stick tricks.

At PASIC 2015, the popularity of marching percussion will be proudly on display. We are extremely fortunate this year to have not one, but two presentations from world-class drum corps percussion sections: Colin McNutt and Iain Moyer with The Cadets, and Paul and Sandi Rennick with Santa Clara Vanguard. I know I will be front and center for all of these sessions, so be there early to get a great seat!

CONCERT SESSION: THE OLD GUARD FIFE AND DRUM CORPS AND THE BRITISH MARINES DRUM SECTION

We invite you to a historic concert in which two of the world’s premier musical organizations will come together showcasing the global connection of military music. The United States Army “Old Guard” Fife and Drum Corps recalls the days of the American Revolution as they perform in uniforms patterned after those worn by the musicians of General George Washington’s Continental Army. The Old Guard blends traditional American fife and drum music with modern-day arranging techniques, providing the performers and audience members a truly unique experience.

The traditional sound of Her Majesty’s Royal Marines Corps of Drums is often heard during the beating of retreat in London. Their beautiful display of traditional British bugling and drumming has captivated audiences around the world. The Royal Marines began their service



United States Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps



The Drummers of the British Marine Corps

to the crown in 1664. The musical and visual display of the Corps of Drums has been a highlight within the international tattoo circuit over the last several decades.

JOHN WOOTON AND THE FLAM FIVE

The “Flam Five” is back for an encore performance at PASIC! Ralph Nader, Jeff Queen, Harvey Thompson, Jeff Prosperie, and John Wooton will be giving a performance and clinic on visuals. They will perform their composition from last year, “What The Heck Were We Thinking,” as well as some new material, and they possibly may have some special guests. Bring your sticks and learn some tricks!

JOE HOBBS AND THE NEWMAN SMITH HIGH SCHOOL PERCUSSION SECTION

This clinic was inspired by experiences shared by many first-year teachers. The daily band class schedule can include a certain amount of designated rehearsal time, and it is important to determine a way to rehearse the pit and the battery simultaneously.



Knowing each section needs to build and develop specific skill sets, it is possible to create a warm-up routine to suit the needs of both sections at once. After quite a bit of trial and error, and a few years of revisions, this warm-up sequence emerged and helped immensely in the overall success of the Newman Smith program.

The clinic will feature the entire warm-up sequence and explain how to implement this in your current percussion curriculum. Each exercise will cover a basic skill set for every instrument in the percussion ensemble.

THE CADETS/SANTA CLARA VANGUARD

Using music from their 2015 competitive shows, the battery and front ensemble sections of these outstanding drum and bugle corps will demonstrate rehearsal techniques, designs, and musical approaches that help them achieve such high performance quality. The Cadets percussion section is under the direction of Colin McNutt (caption head, battery arranger) and Iain Moyer (front ensemble arranger and coordinator). Santa Clara Vanguard is under the direction of Paul Rennick (caption head, battery arranger) and Sandi Rennick (front ensemble arranger and coordinator).

I hope to see you at these events in San Antonio! **PN**



Jeff Queen, Jeff Prosperie, Ralph Nader, Harvey Thompson and John Wooton



The Cadets Percussion Section



Santa Clara Vanguard Percussion Section