

## **2023-2024 Fall Band Judge Bios**

### **JAMES BODE**

James Bode is the director and drummer for the West Texas Jazz Orchestra, a 16 piece big band based in San Angelo, Texas. He also performs in the jazz sextet, Jazz Concho, and is principal timpanist in the San Angelo Symphony Orchestra. He holds degrees from The University Of North Texas and The University Of Texas at Austin. Mr. Bode retired after a successful 24 year band directing career, most recently at Irion County High School. He also taught at Fredericksburg High School, San Angelo Central High School and Angelo State University.

An active adjudicator and clinician for concert, marching and jazz bands, Bode is also an arranger and composer of marching, jazz and concert band music, he has over forty arrangements for bands and percussion groups, as well as the author of "The Smart Drummer", a class percussion method. He is a member of the Texas Music Adjudicators Association, Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Bandmasters Association and the Percussive Arts Society. Mr. Bode is currently the Music Director for the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts.

### **GREG DICK**

Greg Dick was a Texas band director for 41 years in the Dickinson, Clear Creek, and Friendswood school districts. In Dickinson as the Junior High Assistant, he assisted the bands and taught the high school drumline. During this time, both the Junior High and High School were TMEA Honor Bands and the marching band was the UIL State Champion.

As the head director at Space Center Intermediate School followed by Friendswood High School, his bands were TMEA Honor Band four times and twice performed at the Midwest Clinic. During his 20 years at Friendswood HS, the marching band had ten consecutive appearances at the UIL State Marching Band Contest, was a seven time finalist, and earned three Silver Medals. In addition, Friendswood was Best in Class in many local contests and was a BOA Regional and Super Regional finalist. Mr. Dick is a busy clinician and adjudicator. Professional affiliations include TMEA, TBA, TMAA, Phi Beta Mu, and ABA.

### **SCOTT DUDLEY**

Scott Dudley taught over 20 years in Belton ISD where he served in various capacities. He has been the Percussion Specialist and Assistant Band Director (1996-2006); Associate Band Director (2006-2008); and Director of Bands (2008-2016). Currently, Mr. Dudley teaches a private percussion studio where he works with 60 beginning, middle school, and high school percussionists. He is Principal Percussionist with the Temple Symphony Orchestra, and an active performer, band/percussion clinician, and consultant in the area. Mr. Dudley is a graduate of Baylor University where he received his Bachelor of Music Education degree.

## **MICHAEL HAMILTON**

Michael Hamilton is a percussion performer and music educator originally from Grand Blanc, MI. Mr. Hamilton holds a Master of Music degree in Percussion Performance from Colorado State University and a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from Central Michigan University. Hamilton has performance experience including DCI and WGI ensembles, as well as numerous different jazz and classical ensembles.

Mr. Hamilton has worked with numerous high school music programs in Colorado and Michigan and is currently the Assistant Band Director and Director of Percussion in the Gatesville Independent School District in Gatesville, TX.

## **ERIC HARPER**

Teacher, composer, and performer Eric Harper was the Director of Percussion Studies for Brazoswood High School and its feeder programs in the area of Clute/Lake Jackson, Texas for thirteen years. Eric is a graduate of Texas Tech University with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education, where he studied with Greg Koyle, Alan Shinn, and Dr. Lisa Rogers. He has performed in masterclasses with Evelyn Glennie at the 1996 PASIC Convention, as well as performed with percussion legends Leigh Howard Stevens, Michael Burritt, and Nexus. During his last two years in Lubbock, Eric was an instructor for the Texas Tech Drumline and a member of the Lubbock Symphony. When Eric moved to the Austin area in 2013, he worked for Austin ISD and Lake Travis ISD.

In his years in Houston, Eric taught "Percussion One" ensembles and percussion camps with Lamar Burkhalter. Eric helped lead Percussion One in their performance and clinic at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in 1998. The same year, Eric was working for Westfield High School Band and helped them achieve 5A Texas State Marching Band Champion. In 2000, Eric traveled to Hanover Germany with Percussion One to perform at the World Expo.

Eric was a section leader of the Houston Texans Drumline for nine years, member of the Houston Rockets drum group known as "Big Bang" and also a member of a West African drum ensemble known as Drum Cafe. In 2003, 2006, and 2009 Brazoswood percussion ensemble performed at the renowned Percussive Arts Society International Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, Indianapolis, Indiana, and Austin, Texas through the call for tapes competition. Brazoswood High School Percussion Ensemble is the only high school group in history to have won the call-for-tapes process three times in a row. Percussion groups from all over the world were in competition with Brazoswood for this honor. The other ensembles listed with top marks were from Germany and Japan. The Brazoswood Drumline has been recognized in many Texas-based competitions and recently won second place in the PASIC international indoor drumline competition.

While working with the Brazoswood High School band program, the band was honored with several high level achievements, including finalists at Texas 5A State Marching Band Championships, Bands of America San Antonio Super Regional Finalists, and 2012 Texas 5A State Honor Band.

Eric is a family man and enjoys spending time with his wife Carrie and two daughters Jade and Cora. Eric is a proud endorser of Innovative Percussion and has two compositions, "Sands of Africa" and "Drume" published with Drop

## **RUSSELL HOLCOMBE**

Russell Holcombe is currently the band director at Normangee ISD, in Normangee, Texas. After teaching for 29 years in Cypress Fairbanks ISD he retired in 2018. When Normangee ISD needed a band director last year, he decided to go back into the band hall. Over the course of his career, Mr. Holcombe has received the UIL Sweepstakes award 25 times. In 2009, he was named as a Denius UIL Sponsor Excellence award winner.

His bands have performed at the National Concert Band Festival in Indianapolis three times and his percussion section in the National Percussion Festival twice. He currently performs with the "Dash Drummers" in Houston, Texas and was a snare drummer for the Troopers Drum and Bugle Corps (Casper, Wyoming), the Sky Ryders Drum and Bugle Corps (Hutchinson, Kansas), and the NightHawks Drum and Bugle Corps (Houston, Texas). Russell currently resides in Cypress, Texas with his wife Vicki. Having served as a judge for the TAPPS State Solo and Ensemble Contest for percussion the last several years, Mr. Holcombe is excited to serve as a judge in today's drumline competition. In his opinion, all the kids performing today are winners and their performances are to be celebrated.

## **MICHAEL LEMISH**

Michael Lemish is in his 22nd year serving in Argyle ISD. Until September of 2023 Mr. Lemish has served as the district Percussion Director since 2002 and has also held the role of Visual Coordinator for the marching band since 2006. His responsibilities included teaching high school, middle school and beginning percussion students as well as all aspects of the marching band's visual program. Mr. Lemish recently moved to a new position as the Network Systems and Safety and Security Coordinator for the district.

Mr. Lemish graduated from Central Noble High School in Albion, Indiana in 1997. In the fall of that year he moved to Denton, TX where he began his collegiate career at the University of North Texas. While at UNT he performed in the UNT Drumline, the basketball band and was part of various percussion ensembles. His teachers included Dr. Robert Schietroma, Jeff Prosperie, Christopher Deane and Ed Soph.

Under his direction, the Argyle Drumline has earned first place at the Plano Drumline competition 8 times in addition to many "Best Percussion" awards at various marching competitions. Mr. Lemish has played a key role in the numerous awards that the Argyle High School Bands have been awarded including the 2005 TMEA Class C Honor Band, 2006 TMEA Class AA Honor Band, a performance at the 2007 Midwest Clinic, 2008 TMEA Class AAA Honor Band, 2023 TMEA AAAA Honor Band, the UIL State Marching Band Silver Medalists in 2016 and 2018, as well as a state record 8 UIL State marching championships.

Mr. Lemish continues to be an active percussion arranger, performer, adjudicator, and clinician throughout Texas. Michael resides in Denton, TX with his wife Erin, daughters Morgan and Zoe, and son Cooper.

## **CHRIS MCLELLAN**

Chris McLellan currently serves as the Executive Secretary for UIL Music, Region 7 as well as a Clinical Teacher Supervisor for Tarleton State University. Chris retired from band directing in 2021 after 28 years of successful teaching. As Director of Bands for Springtown ISD (2008-2021), Chris led the Sound of Springtown to five consecutive UIL State Marching Championship appearances and placed in finals in 2012, 2016, 2018, and 2020. His concert bands were annual Sweepstakes winners, and his students were very successful in All-Region, Area and State competitions.

During Chris' tenure at Glen Rose ISD (1996-2008) he led the middle school band to annual Sweepstakes and "Best in Class" awards at UIL and invitational concert band competitions. During his time as Director of Bands for Glen Rose ISD (2002-2008), he led the Tiger Pride Marching Band to their first UIL State Marching Championships appearance in over 20 years. His concert bands also earned annual Sweepstakes awards and state recognitions. In addition, his students were very successful in All-Region, Area and State Competitions on an annual basis.

Chris' bands have placed at the state level of the Association of Texas Small School Bands (ATSSB) Outstanding Performance Series Competition at the middle school and high school levels. His Jazz Bands have earned "Best in Class" awards at several Jazz Band Festivals and performed at the Texas State Capitol.

As a percussionist, Chris' students have excelled in marching, solo, ensemble and drum set. He taught beginning percussion for 25 years and produced 11 All-State percussionists. He has also had several students earn "Outstanding Soloists" medals at the Texas State Solo & Ensemble Competition. His marching percussion sections have won awards at many Drumline Competitions including HEB, Lone Star, Plano, and placed 5th at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC) in 2015.

Mr. McLellan earned his Bachelor of Music Education Degree from Tarleton State University and his Master of Educational Leadership Degree from Lamar University. He is an active clinician for marching band, concert band and percussion. His professional memberships include Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA), Texas Bandmasters Association (TBA), Association of Texas Small School Bands (ATSSB), Texas Music Adjudicators Association (TMAA), Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education, and Phi Beta Mu Honorary School Bandmaster Fraternity. Chris currently lives in Fort Worth with his wife Mary and two sons Ian and Jackson, who are both percussionists as well.

## **JOHN C. MIZE**

John C. Mize resides in Canton, Texas and has been married to Amber Marie Mize for 21 Years. Together they have three children, and the family has a thriving music ministry that serves nursing homes, assisted living and special services.

John received his early music training in the churches and public schools of South Louisiana. He holds a "Bachelors of Instrumental Music Education" Degree from The University of Southwestern, Louisiana and Master of Music Work from Northwestern University in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

He served 38 years as head band director, mostly in Northeast Texas, where his ensembles performed to wide acclaim across the United States, Canada, and Europe. His ensembles made appearances on national television at The Hollywood Christmas Parade in Los Angeles, CA, The Indy 500 Indianapolis Speedway Race and International Appearances on ESPN in Canada for The Montreal Expos and Cincinnati Reds Baseball game as well as The Queen's "New-Year's Day Parade" in Downtown London.

His ensembles have received many awards through the years with consistent sweepstakes ratings, five "Bands of America" Class Championships, Multiple Invitational Contest Awards, Appearances at State Contests, Championship Awards at The National Adjudicators and Dixie Classic Concert Contests and a decade of recordings on Marc Custom Records.

Mr. Mize is an active musician and a composer with publications at TRN Music Publisher, Gore Publishing Company and Morales Musicomp Company. In addition to performing, arranging, and composing, John has conducted Honor Bands, clinics, and student leadership workshops around Texas and across the Southern United States.

In 2003, John and Amber Mize formed Troubadour Consultants, LLC and has provided state, national and international-performance and travel arrangements for thousands of students.

John is a long-time member of The Texas Music Educators Association and The Association of Texas Small School Bands.

## **JOSE SANCHEZ**

Jose Sanchez is in his 15th year of band directing in the Central Texas area. He is in his 8th year at Gatesville ISD, serving as Director of Bands and Fine Arts Coordinator. While at Gatesville, his bands have earned 7 consecutive Sweepstakes awards, a 2022 SMC appearance and has advanced numerous students to state level contests.

In 2019, Mr. Sanchez was awarded the position of Fine Arts Coordinator for Gatesville ISD, where he oversees all yearly budgetary approvals for secondary fine arts. Mr. Sanchez actively serves ATSSB Region 8, and has held the role of Band Organizer for the Junior High Combined Band since 2018. Prior to 2016, he served as High School Assistant Director and Marching Band Director at Robinson High School, Director of Bands at Wortham ISD, and Assistant Band Director at Rosebud-Lott ISD.

While at Robinson, Mr. Sanchez helped lead the Pride of the Blue to a State Marching Band Contest appearance, in addition to earning the title of TMEA 3A State Honor Band. As Director of Bands at Wortham ISD, his bands earned superior ratings, and also earned second place in the State OPS Contest in the March category. Mr. Sanchez is an active clinician and adjudicator.

## **GEORGE STRICKLAND**

Mr. Strickland is the retired Assistant Director of State Music Activities of the University Interscholastic League. Prior to becoming a UIL staff member, he taught instrumental music in the public schools for twenty-nine years. Bands under his direction were awarded consecutive UIL Sweepstakes honors. Individual members of his bands were recognized with All-Region, All-Area, All-State, and UIL

Regional and State Solo and Ensemble awards. He was recognized in 1991 by being nominated for the UIL – Denius Award by his school district.

He is an active adjudicator for marching bands, concert and sight-reading band events, and instrumental solo and ensemble events in Texas. He has also adjudicated events in Colorado, Tennessee, Indiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas festivals held in Dallas, Denton, San Antonio, Corpus Christi, and Houston.

Mr. Strickland has served as President of the Association of Texas Small School Bands and as Region President of Texas Music Educators Association, Regions 2 and 7. He previously served on various committees with the National Federation of High School Activity Association and as Chair Pro-tem and Treasurer for the Texas Coalition for Quality Arts Education. He is currently a member of the Association of Texas Small School Bands State Board of Directors, Texas Music Adjudicators Association, Texas Bandmasters Association, Texas Music Educators Association, and Phi Beta Mu International Bandmaster Fraternity. In 2019 he was inducted into the Texas Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Mu Bandmasters Hall of Fame.

## **ROB TOUPS**

Rob Toups is retired Director of Bands and Fine Arts for the Canton Independent School District in Canton, Texas. His tenure at the CISD lasted 23 years before retiring in 2014. Under Mr. Toups' direction, Canton bands earned 20 years of consecutive Texas UIL Sweepstakes awards and from 1998 through 2012, have been finalists in the Texas State UIL marching championships, TMEA Concert Honor Band and ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series competitions. His Canton High School bands have performed in Dublin Ireland, Montreal Canada, throughout the United States, most notably West Point Military Academy and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Under his direction, the Canton High School Symphonic Band was named the 2003 TMEA State AAA Honor Band, and in addition to earning two UIL State Bronze medals and one Silver medal, his CHS marching bands were named the three-time consecutive UIL Texas State Marching Champions in 2002, 2004 and 2006.

Mr. Toups is a member of the Association of Texas Small School Bands, Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Band Masters Association, Texas Music Adjudicators Association, Central States Judges Association and Phi Beta Mu. He holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Southwestern Louisiana and has 34 years of experience teaching public and private school music. During his tenure at Canton ISD, Mr. Toups served as the Association of Texas Small School Bands 3A representative and State President from 1998 to 2010, and also served as the Texas Music Adjudicators Association marching band Vice-President from 2004-2008. He is a recipient of the prestigious Texas University Interscholastic League Sponsor Excellence award and the Texas Bandmasters Association Exemplary Bandmaster award. Most recently, Rob was inducted into the Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame, class of 2022. Rob conducts, adjudicates and clinics throughout Texas and Nationally.

He and the love of his life, Khaki, have been married 48 years. Together, they have three children, Leah, Lindsey and Mark, son-in-law Chris Sarangoulis and three grandchildren William, Catherine and Anna.