

MEET THE JUDGES



Bob Anderson

Bob Anderson retired from Linn-Mar after serving 22 years as Director of Choral Activities at the High School. He taught public school choral music in Iowa for 41 years. His choirs have been selected to many special performances including appearances at the 1992 and 2000 North Central ACDA Conventions and the 2005 National ACDA Convention. His choirs toured Europe in 2003, 2006, 2009, and 2012.

In May 2014, Linn-Mar Choirs appeared in a performance of Mozart's Coronation Mass at Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center, in New York City. From 1995-2015, Mr. Anderson directed the highly regarded show choir, 10th Street Edition. He holds a B.M.E. degree from Westmar College in Le Mars, Iowa, and has done graduate work at the University of Iowa.

Mr. Anderson has served the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) in many capacities. Bob was President of the Iowa Choral Directors Association from 1991-93. He served as the President of the North Central Division of ACDA from 2002-2004 and was the Chairman of the 2004 North Central Division Convention.



Adam Bassak

Adam is the Director of Bands at Baldwin-Woodville High School where he conducts the Symphonic Band, Marching Band, Pep Band, Pit Ensemble, Winter Drumline, Winter Guard and numerous chamber groups. His ensembles consistently receive top ratings. The Marching Blackhawks have finished in the top three bands at state each year, including ten state championships. Prior to teaching at Baldwin-Woodville Mr. Bassak held a similar position at the Royall School District in Elroy, Wisconsin.

A native of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, he earned his Bachelor's Degree and a certificate in Fine Arts Administration from the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire. He also has continued his education at the University of Wisconsin – River Falls, University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire, and received his Masters in Educational Leadership through Silver Lake College in Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

Mr. Bassak is an active clinician for both band and show choir throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota. He is also the coordinator and trombone coach for the Wisconsin State Honors Jazz Project and an appointed member the WSMA State Marching Band Committee. His professional affiliations include the Wisconsin Music Educators Association, National Association for Music Education and the National Band Association.



Doran Johnson

After 37 years teaching choral music in Iowa and Nebraska, Doran Johnson recently retired from the classroom. His career concluded at Westside High School in Omaha, where he directed The Amazing Technicolor Show Choir and Warrior Express and served as Performing Arts Department Chair. Although retired, Doran remains deeply connected to the choral world, serving as a clinician and adjudicator across the country. He is also enjoying a new adventure as a student travel planner, combining his love of education, music, and travel.



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Brooke Smolder

Brooke Smolder is a freelance choreographer based in Scott Depot, WV. Brooke is a graduate of Marshall University where she earned a bachelor's degree in Education, with an emphasis on Mathematics and Physical Education and a masters degree in Athletic Administration. After years of dance training and competing, Brooke continued her dance career as a four year member and two year captain of the Marshall University dance team. After graduation she became head coach of the collegiate team for an additional five years. Brooke served as the WVAHPERD Dance Chair overseeing the importance of dance education in the state public education system and presenting at state conventions on their behalf. She is also currently appointed by the governor of the state of West Virginia to serve on the WV Commission of the Arts.

Brooke has choreographed for multiple dance teams, cheer squads, show choirs and theater productions across the east coast. She has the honor of choreographing as well as judging show choir festivals across the United States. She is also blessed to serve on staff with Show Choir Camps of America. Brooke is married to her husband, Eddie, and has two children, Braylie and Eddric. She is blessed by the many talented students and directors that enrich her life as she continues to dance and create.



Mark Traynor Quamme

Mark Traynor Quamme is in his 13th year as freelance choreographer + clinician, thrilled to support students across the Midwest and beyond! Mark is a 2008 Holmen High School graduate (Wisconsin), where he got his start with show choir in "Midwest Express". Mark continued performing at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, where he started choreographing with show choir programs in the Chippewa Valley and continued to do so while getting his Master of Arts in Servant Leadership from Viterbo University. Mark has continued to direct, choreograph, and clinician over the last 15 years with a variety of ages + styles of movement, including show choir programs, college music ensembles, high school theatre productions, and studio dance.

When he isn't choreographing, Mark is also the Founder + Lead Flow Finder at The Creative's Flow (@thecreativesflow), a creative studio designed to support freelance creatives + small business owners. Mark lives in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota with his husband, Nick, and dogs, Nora + Betty. Have a great season, ya'll!



Steve Woodin

Steve Woodin spent 28 years as the Director of Choral Activities at Urbandale High School, where he conducted the Concert Choir, Select Mixed Choir, Urbandale Singers, and Studio, the varsity show choir. Steve has served as an adjudicator for the Iowa All-State and has served as an assistant to four Iowa All-State Chairs. He has judged at State small and large group contests in Iowa and Nebraska. Steve directed the 2011 OPUS boys honor choir and Chaired the 2012 Iowa Choral Directors Association Summer Symposium.

Steve has a private voice studio, works with All-State ensembles from several central Iowa schools, and spent the 2025 fall semester as the Director of the Drake University Choir. Steve will be judging 6 show choir competitions this year throughout the Midwest.

Steve has been married to Paula for 45 years and has three children, Scott, Greg, and Janelle, as well as a grandson, Oliver. Steve spends his spare time traveling, fishing, hiking, and spending time with family.



MEET THE MIDDLE SCHOOL JUDGES



Even Jones

Evan R. Jones has worked with elementary, middle, and high school choral and show choir programs for 20 years. Currently, he teaches music at Laketown Elementary in Waconia, Minnesota and directs the Waconia Youth Choir. Mr. Jones has been a director for the Power Company family of show choirs, working with The Current, Illuminations, Shockwave, and Pulse show choirs. His curricular choirs have performed at the Minnesota ACDA Choral Festival and the MMEA Midwinter Clinic.

In the summer, he enjoys directing show choir camp programs including the junior show choir camps in Waconia and the show choir camp at the University of Northwestern in St. Paul, Minnesota, a program which he co-founded. Mr. Jones has a degree in vocal and classroom music education (K-12) from the University of Northwestern - St. Paul. He, his wife Christy, and their two kids reside in the Minneapolis area and are thankful to share the blessings of Christian faith and music in their home together.



Tanner Larson

This is Tanner's sixth year working with the Waconia Family of Show Choirs. Currently he co-directs Power Company alongside his mentor Aaron Olson and directs the show band "Watt." He also directs the Holy Family High School curricular choir and teaches voice lessons at Bloomington Kennedy High School and Bloomington Jefferson High School. Tanner received his bachelors degree in vocal music education from St. Olaf College. Tanner is also a Power Company alumni and feels so grateful to continue to be a part of such an amazing community.



Sue Snorek

Sue Snorek is currently the full time vocal music director at Waconia Middle School. Her teaching duties include teaching 6th, 7th, and 8th grade choirs as well as advisory classes at WMS. Sue is currently in her 24th year of teaching vocal and general music classes for District 110. 15 of those years were spent teaching K-4/5 and then moved to WMS where she currently enjoys working daily with the middle school energy. Sue received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education from the University of Minnesota, Morris and her Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Concordia University, St. Paul.

Beyond her daily teaching responsibilities, Sue is actively involved with the Waconia High School Marching Band program as the Head Cologuard Instructor and has previously been involved with the Waconia Show Choir program at both the middle and high school levels. She also teaches private piano and French Horn students throughout the year. Sue is an active member of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), NafMEA, and Minnesota Music Educators Association (MMEA). In her free time, she enjoys distance running, traveling, puzzles, and being with friends and family.



Manny Treichel

Manny Treichel is 23 years old. In high school he was part of the Waconia Show Choir family. He has been a director for the Waconia Show Choir program for three years, and now works with all of the show choirs in Waconia. He has also choreographed many musicals and spring dance concerts around Minnesota.

