

# TJ Drum Line Info Sheet

## Show Concept for Winter 2019: Energy Is

This year's show is based on an inspirational/motivation video called "This is Who You Are", posted on YouTube by the speaker/activist Prince Ea that tells a powerful message about the energy that binds the human race together. It can best be understood simply by watching the video. Supposing permission is granted to use the words in our show, we will have about 80-90% of them sampled as voice-overs, or we may use a speaking performer in the show to say them over the music we're playing. If permission is not granted (still pending), we will be creating or using similar wording and messaging to tell this universal story in our own way. We hope it will enhance a positive experience and provide inspiration for both performers and audience members!



You can see the original video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BbO9K0tdhuU>  
And you can learn more about Prince Ea if you're interested: <https://princeea.com/> We do not intend to dwell on his branding/messaging, rather we are simply using this particular video as inspiration for our show.

The musical source material is always subject to change, but we are not currently planning to use the music you hear in the video. Instead, we intend to write an arrangement of "A Kaleidoscope of Mathematics", from the soundtrack to the movie "A Beautiful Mind", composed by Robert Horner. This will be paired with some originally composed material we will write ourselves. Listen to Robert Horner's original here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDEx6tolC6w>

We will actually not be using a floor tarp for this show like we usually do! We instead are planning to create a uniform that has multiple layers and bright colors, along with props that have built-in, battery-operated, possible remote controlled, dimmable lights on top of poles, and strung from overhead lines. The hope is that this bright light, color and energy that moves above the floor will stand out against the blank, black subfloor that will be beneath the performers. Instead of drawing the audience's eye to the backdrop, they will be drawn to the performers and to the lights above, helping in a very connected way to tell the story of the show.



We will be purchasing new uniform/costume tops that will include everything except socks and shoes, which performers will provide (likely black TJMC marching band shoes). It will be two-layers, the top layer design is shown here, though imagine that different people will have gradients of a variety of colors, not this brown-scale you see here except for the pants, which will be brown. The layer underneath will be a combination of all the colors from all the variations of the top-coat so everyone looks the same, but includes all the colors, not just their own.

If you are new to what we do, check out this video of last year's TJDL drum line performing in the 2018 WGI World Championships in Dayton, OH:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mI5K6F-L3HY>

## Staff

### **Steve Ballard – [SWBallard@fcps.edu](mailto:SWBallard@fcps.edu) – Director and Front Ensemble Arranger**

Steve is a Fairfax County Public Schools elementary band director at Fort Hunt and Woodley Hills ES and an alum of W. T. Woodson High School. He has been working with the TJ drum line and marching band since the winter of 2003-04 and also serves as an associate director as needed. He was the Northern Region Percussion Coordinator for the Atlantic Indoor Assoc. for two years. His performance experience includes membership in the front ensemble of the Crossmen and Santa Clara Vanguard Drum and Bugle Corps for a combined five years. His drum line teaching experience includes time with the Crossmen and Colts Drum and Bugle Corps. He has also been a part of the percussion staff for the Carolina Crown D and B Corps for most of the years since 2007, including the 2013 season when they won the DCI World Championship. After 5 years as the pit section supervisor for the United Percussion Indoor Drum Line, a perennial WGI World Class Finalist, Steve is entering his sixth season with Spirit of America Winter Percussion from Orleans, MA, the 2015 WGI Ind. Open Class world champion, and he has also been a percussion consultant for the George Mason University drum line. He has been teaching and arranging for High School Drum Lines across the country for the past 20+ years and with TJ in particular, has won multiple State and Regional Marching Band Championships, the AIA A and Open Class Indoor Drum Line Championships and placed as an A Class Finalist and an Open Class Semi-finalist at the WGI World Championships. He attended Ithaca College in New York where he received a Bachelor of Music in Music Education and Performance and Master of Music in Music Education. He is a Vic Firth endorsed music educator, member of NAfME, and a regular performer with the Fairfax Wind Symphony.

### **Adam Foreman – Band Director**

Adam Foreman is in his ninth year as Director of Bands at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. His duties include teaching the two concert bands, two jazz bands, two percussion ensembles, the Marching Colonials, and overseeing the Indoor Drumline and Colorguard. Under his direction the Wind Ensemble was invited to perform at the 2013 and 2017 Music For All National Concert Band Festival and the 2014 Virginia Music Educator's Association Conference. The Marching Colonials have won numerous US Bands Regional and State championships and were a 2012, 2014, 2017, and 2018 Bands of America Regional Finalist. The TJ band program is a Virginia Honor Band. Prior to his appointment to Thomas Jefferson Mr. Foreman taught at West Potomac High School where he served as the assistant band director and head of percussion under Director of Bands Steve Rice. While at West Potomac the band nearly doubled in size and both the Wind Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble were invited members to the 2010 Music For All National Festival. Mr. Foreman received his Masters in Fine Arts from George Mason University, and his Bachelor of Music from James Madison University. While at James Madison, he studied under Bill Rice for Percussion and Gabriel Dobner for piano. Mr. Foreman resides in Alexandria, Virginia..

### **Dave Fye – Battery Instructor**

Dave is an FCPS alum (Edison HS) and has been working with TJ since fall of 2010. His performance experience includes two years each with Carolina Thunder and Carolina Crown D and B Corps, and one year with the Santa Clara Vanguard D and B Corps. He spent several years teaching in North Carolina with several high-level High School and Independent percussion programs including West Carteret HS, Croatan HS Marching Band, and the Constitution World Class Indoor Drum Line. Dave graduated from East Carolina University and is currently in his ninth year teaching band at Francis Hammond Middle School in Alexandria.

### **Alex Kluttz – Front Ensemble Instructor**

Alex Kluttz is a percussionist and educator in the Washington D.C. area. He is currently the band director at Key Middle School in Springfield, VA. He has taught percussion at multiple high schools including, Thomas Jefferson High School of Science and Technology in Alexandria, VA; Yorktown High School in Arlington, VA; Northwest Guilford, Eastern Randolph and Central Davidson High Schools in the greater Greensboro, NC area. While under his instruction, the groups were highly successful competitively. His WGI experience began while assisting Palmetto Percussion in Columbia, South Carolina and Wake Forest Independent percussion ensemble based out of Winston Salem, North Carolina. He began teaching at United Percussion out of the greater Philadelphia area in the winter of 2014 and was the front ensemble caption head in 2015 and 16. He is currently entering his third year as a front ensemble instructor for the George Mason Univ. Drum Line. His pageantry experience began with DCI in 2008 when he joined Carolina Crown and completed five tours with them, aging out in 2012. Upon aging out, he taught the Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps for two years. In the summer of 2014 he coordinated the front ensemble for the Scouts. Alex then served as an instructor of the front ensemble at Carolina Crown in 2015-18 winning the DCI World Class silver medal in 2015 and bronze in '16 and '17. He was awarded with the Hester Undergraduate Music Scholarship and is an Eagle Scout. While in his undergraduate at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro he performed with the UNCG Wind Ensemble for several years and accompanied the group to CBDNA and other national conferences. While at UNCG he studied percussion with Dr. Kristopher Keeton. There he received a Bachelor of Music in Music Education and Music Performance.

### **Suzie Brooks – Cymbal Instructor and Visual Designer**

Suzie Brooks is originally from Novi, MI and attended Western Michigan University. There she was in the marching band for five seasons, serving as the drum major for three before graduating with a degree in communications. As a performer, Suzie spent seven seasons marching WGI ensembles. She marched two with Novi HS, three with Motor City Percussion and two with the WGI World Class finalist Northcoast Academy in the cymbal line. She has been an active educator, working with Eastside Fury, Legends Drum and Bugle Corps as well as many schools in Michigan and Northern Virginia. Suzie works for a real estate agent out of Arlington and currently resides in Woodbridge with her husband Jeff. She was the Northern Region Percussion Coordinator for the Atlantic Indoor Association for one year and currently in her third year as the Northern Region Vice President.

### **Sarah Fabian – Battery Instructor**

Sarah is currently working on earning her Ph.D. in Music Education from George Mason University. Before that, she graduated from both Towson University where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education with a concentration in Percussion and Johns Hopkins Peabody Conservatory where she earned a Master's in Music Education. She is currently working with Mason's Green Machine Pep Band and indoor groups as well as several other Northern Virginia marching ensembles as both an instructor and music arranger. Sarah has an extensive history in the drum and bugle corps circuit. Before teaching, Sarah was a five-year marching member of DCI, aging-out with Carolina Crown in 2009. Before Carolina Crown, Sarah marched with the Jersey Surf from 2005-2008. She was also a four-year member of the world-class indoor drumline, United Percussion, from 2007-2010. In 2010, Sarah made the switch to being a staff member as the bass tech for the Colts and the following year, she joined the percussion staff as the bass tech for the Crossmen. She was previously the bass tech and choreography designer for United Percussion in 2011-

2012 and 2018. Currently, Sarah has the privilege of working as a bass tech for both The Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps and the Reading Buccaneers Drum and Bugle Corps. Sarah joined the Cadets Percussion staff this past summer and has been with the Reading Buccaneers for the past four years, earning the World Championship title for three of those four years. Sarah is a Vic Firth Educator. Before starting her Ph.D., she was the Director of Percussion and Assistant Band Director at Calvert Hall College High School in Baltimore, Maryland where the competitive marching band won the USBands National Championship two years in a row, with an undefeated percussion section. Outside of the marching world, Sarah teaches private lessons at the Baltimore School for Drumming, serves as an adjudicator for Maryland State Band and Orchestra Competitions, and works as a freelance percussionist in the Baltimore and Washington D.C. regions.

#### **Matt Penland – Battery Instructor and Arranger**

Matt Penland is a percussion performer, educator, and arranger based out of Washington, D.C. where he is a percussionist in the U.S. Air Force Band, Ceremonial Brass. Matt is on the instructional staff for the reigning DCI world champion Santa Clara Vanguard Drum and Bugle Corps, and the George Mason University Indoor Drumline. Matt also arranges music for several marching percussion groups across the country, including the battery for Thomas Jefferson HSST fall marching band and indoor drum line. Matt has performed and given masterclasses at the International Percussion Festival Seoul in South Korea, the Northwestern Percussion Symposium, the Nebraska PAS Day of Percussion, the University of North Carolina-Pembroke, the Texas Music Educators Association convention and others. He was a section percussionist with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago before joining the Air Force, and was also a Music Academy of the West percussion fellow. As a rudimental percussionist he was a member of the Santa Clara Vanguard, Phantom Regiment, Carolina Crown, and Crossmen Drum and Bugle Corps. Matt earned a Bachelor of Music Performance degree from the University of North Texas and a Master of Music Performance degree from Northwestern University. His teachers included She-e Wu, Christopher Lamb, Vadim Karpinos, James Ross, Paul Rennick, Christopher Deane, and Mark Ford. Matt proudly endorses Innovative Percussion and Dynasty USA products.

#### **Jake Harpster – Front Ensemble Instructor**

Jacob Harpster is a percussionist currently residing in Washington, D.C., where he is a member of The United States Army Band "Pershing's Own." As a performer, Harpster is known for his diverse background. In the Broadway idiom, Harpster has presented concerts across the globe. He was the featured marimba soloist and percussionist of the Tony and Emmy award winning Broadway production "BLAST." With this show, he toured the United States, South Korea, and all 47 prefectures in Japan. As a soloist and chamber musician, Harpster has won many awards and competitions, and has presented concerts throughout the United States and Europe. An enthusiast of contemporary music, Harpster is commissioning and premiering many new works each year. Harpster collaborates with many notable contemporary music ensembles such as Chicago-based Fonema Consort, InterSpheres Trio, and his duo - the Penland/Harpster Duo. The Penland/Harpster Duo recently won the 2017 New Works for Percussion Project Competition. Harpster also was awarded first place in the Yamaha Young Performing Artists Competition in 2010. Harpster enjoys an active career as an orchestral percussionist and timpanist. In addition to his freelance orchestral career, Harpster has served as Timpani Fellow of Aspen Music Festival, and has served as a Percussionist for Civic Orchestra of Chicago. In the marching percussion idiom, Harpster has taught and designed for a number of high schools, universities, and drum corps. Harpster is currently on front ensemble staff at the reigning DCI world champion Santa Clara Vanguard Drum and Bugle Corps. He as served as Front Ensemble Caption Head for Madison Scouts in 2013, front ensemble tech for University of North Texas "A-Line," George Mason University Indoor, Center Grove High School, tech and arranger for Marian Catholic High School, among many others. Currently based in Washington, D.C. Harpster currently teaches at McLean High School in McLean, VA, and Thomas Jefferson HSST in Alexandria, VA. Harpster received his Master of Music in Percussion Performance with related field studies in Contemporary Music Performance from the University of North Texas. He received his Bachelor of Music in Percussion Performance from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Upon graduating from Indiana University, Harpster was awarded the prestigious Performer's Certificate.

## **Our “Out of town” Staff**

### **Ian Hale – Front Ensemble Instructor and General Design Consultant**

Ian has been working with the TJ pit as a guest instructor since 2008. Ian has his Bachelor's Degree in percussion performance from the University of Calgary and his Master's Degree in percussion performance from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He was a member of the Allegiance Elite, Crossmen and Glassmen D and B Corps. He has participated in master classes, performances and music competitions with more prominent artists than will fit here. He was a member of the music faculty at University of Massachusetts at Amherst from 2007-2008 and served as the Assistant Director of Bands for the Calgary Stampede Showband from 2009-2011. Ian moved to Boston, MA to become more involved with groups such as the Spirit of America Band and Dartmouth HS, winner of the 2014 WGI Scholastic World Class championship. Ian has worked with many ensembles including the Calgary Stampede Showband, Spirit of America, Thomas Jefferson High School, Dartmouth Indoor Percussion, United Percussion, Boston University and the U.S. Army All-American Marching Band. He was a member of the percussion staff for the Glassmen, the Magic of Orlando, the Madison Scouts, Carolina Crown including when they won the 2013 DCI World Championship, and the Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps. He is currently on the percussion staff for the Boston Crusaders Drum and Bugle Corps. He is endorsed by Vic Firth, Remo and Zildjian.

### **Jason Majerczak – Drill Writer and Visual Designer**

Jason Majerczak has been involved with the marching arts since the age of 14. As a member of the Bushwackers Drum and Bugle Corps quad line and pit (1992-1995), he had the opportunity to work with and learn from some of the top percussionists in the country. In 1996, Jason became a member of the Cadets of Bergen County quad line where he again got to work with some of the top names in marching percussion.

After attending West Chester University and graduating with a degree in music education, Jason became the instrumental music director at Upper Darby High School in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. For 16 years, he ran the marching band, indoor drum line, indoor color guard, concert band, wind ensemble, and jazz band. While teaching and designing for Upper Darby, Jason became interested in visual design and began writing for Upper Darby HS as well as various other programs.

As the director and designer of the Upper Darby Indoor Drumline, Jason and his team took the ensemble to new levels by being a perennial finalist as well as winning the WGI Open Class in 2013. In 2014, the ensemble was promoted to the Scholastic World class where they placed 10<sup>th</sup>.

Jason has also served for two years as the visual caption head/designer for United Percussion. United percussion competes in the WGI scholastic world class and is one of the top indoor drumlines in the country. He is also designed for Norwalk HS band and drumline, as well as numerous other indoor groups and marching bands, including choreography for the Thomas Jefferson HS Marching Colonials.

Jason is currently the instrumental music director at Drexel Hill Middle School in the Upper Darby School District. He enjoys writing and consulting for many different schools, and he enjoys his newly found free time at home with his wife and four children. He is currently a judge for the USBands marching band and indoor circuits. He is very excited to be continuing with the Thomas Jefferson High School Percussion team and looks forward to working with this wonderful ensemble again, where he has been designing the drill and visual production for the winter drum line since the 2016-17 season.

## Typical Practice Day

A typical after-school rehearsal for the drum line is split between music and movement. Early season will be mostly on musical technique and show learning. Later in the season, after a musical warm up, the drum line will move into the gym (our preferred venue) or the cafeteria and roll out the "floor" (a protective mat used to help protect the gym floor. It's also usually decoratively printed or painted to provide a backdrop for the show, but as mentioned earlier in this packet, that won't be the case this year. We may just use it to provide a grid to march on in rehearsal). Some time will be spent on marching and movement basics. The rest of the time is used to learn the show, or later in the season, to clean, perfect, and prepare the show for competition. The pit generally joins the battery later in the rehearsal for combined rehearsal with the full ensemble. Fundamental technique work is essential in the development of a performer so that they will become strong enough to handle a full show, so this is where emphasis is placed during the audition process.



Rehearsals usually end at 7:30 PM (depending on the day). This year, we are ending our audition rehearsals at 8:00. **Please allow 15-20 minutes of clean up time afterward.** The season also involves a couple longer weekend camps of full-day rehearsals during which out-of-town staff members will travel to TJ to help out. This vital extra time serves the same purpose as band camp does for TJMC, though it is a much smaller amount of time and sometimes split between multiple weekends/holidays, and is usually the time we finish learning our show. As such, absences from these weekend camps are very challenging to work around. ***Please be prepared to attend in full unless arrangements are made prior to enrollment.***

In total, this season's number of rehearsal hours are on par with the average athletic-team's expected hours of practice at TJ. We are hoping this will be enough to get the job done effectively while still allowing for a proper balance with all the other excellent things you are doing in your life.

## Rehearsal Attire

For rehearsal, students should wear clothing that is easy to move in. Shoes should be comfortable but may be removed while on the floor tarp to protect it. Wearing thick socks is a good way to stay comfortable during long rehearsals. For battery members, jeans or other restrictive clothing is not conducive to proper movement technique. (Pit doesn't have to march, so this is not a concern.)

## Incidental Costs

Sticks and mallets are provided by the band and if they wear out through normal use, they will usually be replaced by the band. However, if they wear out due to misuse, the students will be responsible for buying their own replacements. Snare/tenor drummers are the exception – they should generally expect to provide their own sticks (check with staff for brand and model). Students in the battery will need to supply their own stick tape (white electrical tape). Any members with concerns over these costs may request assistance as needed but they are unlikely to add up to very much.

Also, all members must have performance shoes for the uniform. Any returning members are encouraged to use their old shoes if they can. We will likely use the black TJMC shoes this season. If for some reason, someone ends up needing to purchase new shoes, they are generally around \$35-40 and will be yours to keep, but this is rare since there are many extra pairs in storage, or available to borrow from former TJMC members who aren't in TJDL.

Other costs are rare, but if members are ever asked to purchase something that they are not able/willing to pay for, please just let Steve know and we'll work it out.

## Communication

Traditionally, the drum line members communicate absences and conflicts to the staff by email and that will continue this year. Advance notice is to be given as dictated by the attendance policy to Steve at [SWBallard@fcps.edu](mailto:SWBallard@fcps.edu). CC your section's staff too please. Any general questions may be directed to him this way as well. Doesn't hurt to contact other group members with a quick text or other message if you're running late or unexpectedly absent. Just let us know what's going on!

When possible, face-to-face conversation is more efficient and less likely to be misunderstood than emails. If something is bugging you or impeding your success as a member or you need support in any other way, whether with drum line related things, or with school, or life in general, let's talk in person!



The students will be contacted as a group by the staff by group-email using the emails you list on the enrollment form. Please keep at least one family or student address active on the list at all times. Students may use this list to contact the group as well but are encouraged to limit this correspondence to important issues and appropriate topics. We won't send too many mass emails since much of our online materials will be posted on a Google-Drive folder. Schedules, music and drill will be posted there. .mp3 files will be provided as well if possible so that everyone can listen to the parts. Any music PDFs that are posted should be printed and brought to all rehearsals in a protective binder. Schedules and other important info will also be posted there.

Music files should NEVER be posted anywhere else online or redistributed to outside parties by students at any time or you may be in violation of copyright laws! Please keep everything in-house. If someone wants to see it, invite them to a show!

## Auditions

Any audition materials that we decide to use will be posted to the Google Drive, or handed out by hardcopy at T.J. Remember, multi-season senior expert or 100% freshman beginner... you will still be accepted into the group! This will just help show us what position within the group will best suit you. You may or may not be offered a spot on the instrument/section you hoped for but we hope you will embrace whatever role we believe fits you best. Often, a season spent in a particular role may serve as the perfect preparation for the role you may have actually wanted, if it wasn't what you got. The veteran members can attest to the value of this approach – almost none of them started on the instrument they currently play. If you want private lessons or other help prior to auditions, contact the staff and set it up! Please be prepared to compensate them for their time though, as you would for any private teacher.

## Non-musician Members

There are times when it is appropriate to include non-musician performers who play a visual-only role, or an acting/speaking role. If you or someone you know may be interested, let us know! People who fill these rolls may or may not be asked to participate in the full rehearsal schedule. Any/all discussions will take place during the auditions prior to (or in conjunction with) the initial enrollment process.

This year's show DOES have potential for a highly-active speaking/role-playing part! Let us know if you know a great candidate! Auditions for this may be a little more high-expectation than the regular musical-roles, so please use discretion with your suggestions.

Please focus recruitment efforts toward people not already considering color guard. We do not want to create a visual/role-playing ensemble at the expense of the color guard membership.