

TJ Drum Line Info Sheet

Show Concept for Winter 2020: **S P A C E**

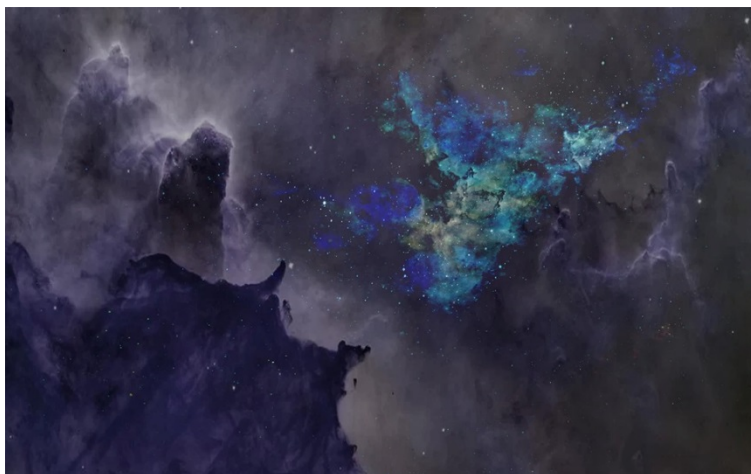


This year's show concept is still very much under construction, but the basic idea is a look at space from three perspectives, which would be represented in three contrasting movements: Philosophical, Scientific, and Artistic. Space will be represented physically and musically, as well as visually in the backdrop and effects we will utilize. We have several ideas for how to potentially narrate the show using either electronically sampled voice overs, or one or more live speakers on microphones. These voices would speak as if from the perspective of people like Carl Sagan for the philosophical, Galileo for the scientific, and Jules Verne or Orson Wells for the artistic. These are examples, but many potential others may be represented non-specifically. The music will provide the soundtrack for this visual and vocal presentation, and we believe that the musical style the TJ Drum Line has become known for in recent years will work beautifully to do so. There was no conscious effort to create a 'science and tech' type concept, especially right on the heels of our atomic fall show, but this is the concept that has presented itself for development. We hope you will like it and will join us!

The musical source material is always subject to change, in large part due to copyright licensure processes and prices, but we intend to write either arrangements of, or original compositions based loosely on two pieces of music, "[Dark Night of the Soul](#)", composed by Ola Gjeilo, and "[Concerto for Percussion and Orchestra](#)", composed by Joseph Schwantner. Some of you may recognize the Gjeilo piece as it was used as the soundtrack for the TJ Winter Guard show a few years ago.

The "backdrop" for most winter drum line and color guard shows is a floor tarp and sometimes backdrop screens. We are purchasing a used 50' X 80' floor tarp with the picture you see here printed on it. It is in great condition and a fraction the cost it would be new, and should provide the perfect backdrop for the show.

And the group we're purchasing from is actually throwing in 8 backdrops for free, which extend the star-scape image across the back of the performance area, each being a whopping 12' X 10'! To use them, we would need to make some collapsible frames and this may be too expensive and/or too much equipment to deal with... but they only cost the shipping to get them, so we'll have the option. If we do go that route, we'll be asking for a team of parents/adults to help build.



Creative
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Designs
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(Updated) We will be purchasing new uniforms/costumes that will include everything except socks and shoes, which performers will provide (likely black TJMC marching band shoes). The picture to the left is our current idea, though some of the design details will be adjusted. The design will also utilize slightly different colors from this picture, with more of a copper/oxidized-copper type color scheme, and other details to work with the image on the floor tarp.

We intend to reuse parts of the props from this fall, 3 semi-circular halves of the smaller circular platforms. We will be dressing them up a bit with some artistic touches, to make each one a sort of icon for one of the three perspectives, for example, a telescope will be included on the one representing the "Scientific" perspective. The props will also be decorated with dimmable plastic lightbulbs that will be run from a control switch to turn on and off in coordination with the music. A similar system was very successful for us last year, though the intent is to run a MUCH simpler wiring arrangement this time!

If you are new to what we do, check out [this video of the TJDL drum line](#) performing in the WGI World Championships Semi-Finals in 2018. We will be returning to Dayton this season to compete in the world championships again! See [the WGI website](#) for more info.

Staff

Steve Ballard – 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 was also a part of the percussion staff for the Carolina Crown D and B Corps from 2007 through 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 seventh 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 periodically. 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 has been the Director of Bands at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology since 2010-11. 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 and 2019 Virginia Music Educators Association Conference. The Marching Colonials have won numerous US Bands Regional and State championships and were a 2012, 2014, 2017, 2018, and 2019 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 tenth 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 fourth 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 2015-19 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 fourth year as the Northern Region Vice President.

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 2018 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 Shee Wu, Christopher Lamb, Vadim Karpinos, James Ross, Paul Rennick, Christopher Deane, and Mark Ford. Matt proudly endorses Innovative Percussion and Dynasty USA products.

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 10th.

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. He also designed choreography for the Thomas Jefferson HS Marching Colonials in 2017.

Jason was recently named a Semi-Finalist for this year's Music Educator Grammy Award. After first being nominated alongside 3000 other teachers across the nation earlier this year, this puts Jason into the top 25 that have been narrowed down from that group.

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. We did not use one last season, but will be this year. 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. 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 TJ. 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 role, or an acting/speaking role, sometimes exclusively, sometimes in conjunction with a musical 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.

Last year's show was very successful with a highly-active speaking role and this year's show DOES have potential for one, or perhaps as many as three such people. 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 include a visual role within the drum line at the expense of the color guard membership.