

CHRISTOPHER KILIAN

Marching Arts Designer | Composer & Arranger | Educator | Adjudicator

Designing effect-driven programs that translate directly to the adjudication sheet.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dynamic marching arts professional with nearly three decades of experience in design, composition, education, and adjudication. Specializes in developing cohesive, effect-driven musical programs that elevate ensemble performance while aligning with modern competitive standards. Known for translating creative concepts into achievable, high-impact productions through collaboration, clarity, and a strong student-centered philosophy.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Full-Program Music Design & Coordination
- Brass, Woodwind, Battery & Front Ensemble Arranging
- Show Pacing, Effect, and Competitive Strategy
- Student Leadership & Drum Major Development
- Ensemble Communication & Instructional Alignment
- Adjudication-Informed Design Approach

MARCHING ARTS DESIGN & ARRANGING

- Contributed to championship-level and finalist-performing ensembles across multiple circuits
- Design and produce complete musical programs for marching band and indoor ensembles
- Arrange/compose for all sections (brass, woodwinds, battery, front ensemble) across varying skill levels
- Translate program concepts into cohesive, adjudication-aware musical designs
- Balance musical demand with ensemble capability to maximize performance quality and competitive success
- Create effect-driven musical moments aligned with visual design and general effect priorities

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION

- Lead drum major training and student leadership development programs
- Provide ensemble-wide instruction in timing, balance, tone quality, and musical responsibility
- Consult on show pacing, clarity, and overall program effectiveness
- Support instructional staff with coordinated teaching strategies and communication systems

ADJUDICATION & COMPETITIVE INSIGHT

- Active music adjudicator with Cavalcade of Bands and USBands
- Former adjudicator with Tournament of Bands/NJA
- Apply current judging standards and trends to program design and instructional decisions
- Provide ensembles with actionable feedback aligned to competitive scoring systems

DRUM CORPS DESIGN & LEADERSHIP HISTORY

- **Bushwackers** — Corps Manager, Brass Caption Head, Staff Coordinator, Hall of Fame Inductee
- **Fusion Core** — Brass Arranger/Music Coordinator; Show Coordinator
- **Windsor Regiment** — Founding Staff Member; Arranger/Composer and Caption Head
- **Reilly Raiders** — Arranger
- **Blue Saints** — Composer/Arranger

SELECTED COLLABORATIONS

- Indoor winds and scholastic marching programs across the Northeastern United States, Texas and California
- Drum corps and independent ensembles (DCI/WGI-aligned)
- Competitive high school programs (Cavalcade, USBands, and various other circuits)

EDUCATION

- Charter Oak State College — B.S. Organizational Leadership
- West Chester University — Music Theory & Composition Studies

BACKGROUND

- Teaching since 1996 and writing since 1997, with extensive experience designing for ensembles of all sizes and ability levels. Background includes performance experience as a saxophonist, brass player, and percussionist, providing a comprehensive understanding of ensemble writing across all sections.

www.ChrisKilianMusic.net

