



Troy Breaux | Percussion Designer

Troy Breaux is Coordinator of Percussion Studies at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette where he teaches courses in percussion performance and pedagogy in both the classical and jazz areas. In addition, Mr. Breaux is the artistic director of the UL Lafayette Percussion Ensemble and Steel Drum Band and the UL Lafayette World Percussion Ensemble. His career as an educator in the field of marching percussion spans over 30 years. During this time, Mr. Breaux has taught and arranged for marching percussion ensembles at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, LSU, the University of Miami, the University of North Texas, Auburn University, and the University of Tennessee, just to name a few. He has served as an arranger and consultant for numerous high school programs throughout the southern region especially the states of Louisiana, Texas, and Florida.

Mr. Breaux is a former percussion section leader of the Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps and is presently the Percussion Caption Supervisor and Arranger for the Louisiana Stars Drum and Bugle Corps. As a performer, Mr. Breaux has appeared with the San Antonio Symphony Orchestra, the Mid-Texas Symphony, the Los Colinas Symphony, and presently performs in the Acadiana Symphony Orchestra. As a drum set player and jazz artist, Mr. Breaux is a member of the Cypress Lake Sextet (the CL6, UL Lafayette Faculty Jazz Ensemble) and performs regularly with the Garth Alper Trio, which recently released its third CD entitled Deflection. He can be heard as a featured performer with the University of North Texas Wind Symphony on its Klavier record label recording of Déjà Vu for Percussion Quartet and Wind Ensemble by Michael Colgrass. Mr. Breaux has appeared as a soloist and clinician at universities and percussion festivals throughout the United States and Canada and is a regular adjudicator for the Percussive Arts Society International Convention Marching Percussion Competition. He is an Artist/Clinician for the Pearl Drum Company, Innovative Percussion Sticks and Mallets, Sabian Cymbals, and Remo Drum Heads. His original compositions for percussion are published by Drop6 Media and appear on several state solo and ensemble lists. Mr. Breaux holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Louisiana State University and a Master of Music degree from the University of Miami. Some of his notable teachers include Dr. Robert Schietroma, Dr. John Raush, Dr. John Wooton, Marty Hurley, Ney Rosauero and Ed Soph. Mr. Breaux also studied conducting with Eugene Migliaro Corporon during doctoral studies at the University of North Texas. As a marimba soloist, he has performed on master classes for Leigh Howard Stevens, She-e Wu, and Robert Van Sice.



Ward Miller | Brass Arranger

Ward Miller (b. 1978) grew up in Loachapoka, a small farming community near the city of Auburn, Alabama. He earned his bachelors of music education from Auburn University in 2001, where he served as webmaster, arranger, and an undergraduate teaching assistant with the Auburn University Marching Band. He graduated from Arizona State University in 2003 with a masters in Trombone Performance. While in the Phoenix area, he served as a part time assistant and clinician with the Paradise Valley High School bands, the Mesa Community College Wind Ensemble, and the Phoenix Symphony Guild Youth Orchestra. He taught public school in Alabama for three years, serving as Director of Bands at Andalusia High School and at Pleasant Grove High School.

Dr. Miller has served as the Musical Arranger, Drill Writer, and Assistant Director of the Macy's Great American Marching Band in New York City since 2006. He was the director of the All-Star Band at the 100th annual Cherry Blossom Parade in Washington, D.C. He has appeared as a guest conductor and clinician and multiple concert honor bands throughout the United States. His marching band arrangements have been performed at competitions, including in Bands of America regionals, by high schools and colleges across the country.

In 2014, Dr. Miller was appointed the Brass Caption Head for the Blue Stars Drum and Bugle Corps of La Crosse, WI. Under his leadership, the hornline has placed in the top 12 and made finals for three consecutive years.

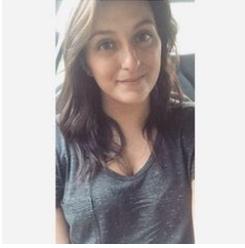
His arrangements have been published by the DevMusic Company, and he is a published composer with the Tuba-Euphonium Press. He currently resides in Minneapolis, MN where he spends his time arranging and composing, and working as a music education consultant clinicing and judging bands.



Chris Word | Design Consultant

Chris is the Director of Choral Activities at Purvis High School in Purvis, MS.

A native of Memphis, TN, he grew up in Starkville, MS and earned a BMed from The University of Southern Mississippi. During his tenure in the pageantry arts, he has been on staff for WGI Scholastic A Finalist, WGI Scholastic Percussion A, Open, and World Finalist, WGI Scholastic A and Open Winds Finalist, and Louisiana Stars Drum and Bugle Corps. During his tenure at Petal, the program had success on the field and indoor. The marching band has won the 2012, 2013, and 2016 State 6A marching band championships. He is a clinician, drill writer, choreographer, and adjudicator throughout the southeast. His theater choreography credits include Phantom of the Opera, James and the Giant Peach, Rock of Ages, Showbiz Harmony, and Mary Poppins. Chris just completed directing Steel Magnolias for Hub City Players.



Nichole Frederick | Guard Designer

Nicole Frederick is from Erath, Louisiana and currently attends the University of Louisiana at Lafayette where she is working towards a degree in elementary education. She previously attended South Louisiana Community College where she earned an associate degree in general studies. She is a proud member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the National Society of Leadership and Success. Nicole found her love for color guard during her freshman year at Erath High School and since then has gone on to spin with Music City Drum and Bugle Corps, L'Acadians Winter Guard, Lake Area Independent, and Acadiana Independent. Nicole began her teaching career in 2013 as the color guard instructor at St. Thomas More High School and as a tech with her alma mater, Erath High School. As of the 2018 season, she is teaching both the Erath High School color guard and the Acadiana High School color guard. Nicole first joined the Louisiana Stars color guard staff in 2016 and is thrilled to be returning this summer as the Color Guard Co-Caption Head! Going forward, Nicole hopes to help members grow as individuals and performers, as well as continue the growth the color guard has had over the last few years.



Meredith Owen | Guard Designer

Meredith Owen is from Ridgeland, Mississippi. Currently, Meredith is a freelance judge, choreographer, and designer as well as finishing her History degree at University of Southern Mississippi. She has been working with the Petal High School Colorguard since 2015 in conjunction with being a choreographer and visual technician for the marching band and the Scholastic World Finalist, Petal Indoor Percussion Theatre. Meredith spent her drum corps career with The Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps and was an inaugural member of Conversion Independent Winterguard from Jackson, Mississippi. This is Meredith's third year with Louisiana Stars, having spent last year as an Assistant Colorguard Caption Head, and she is so excited to see what this season holds!



Evan McAleer | Visual Designer

Evan McAleer is extremely happy to be returning for his fourth year with the Louisiana Stars of which this will be his second as Visual Caption Head. Evan is an active performer, designer, and educator. Evan has been a visual and drill designer for numerous schools across Louisiana for the past 7 years, and is thankful for the opportunity to help create performance opportunities for performers of all skill levels. In addition to his work in design and education, Evan serves as a member of the Allumer Quartet of which he is a founding member, and continues to work toward expanding the horn quartet repertoire through the commissioning and premiering of new music.

While at a young age, Evan was extremely fortunate to be a member of the Father Ryan High School Band Program as well as the Father Ryan High School Musical Theater productions, both of which helped foster a love of the performing arts. Before graduating with a degree in Music Education from Louisiana State University, Evan spent his 4 summers performing as a member of both the Glassmen Drum and Bugle Corps (2008-2010) as well as Carolina Crown Drum and Bugle Corps (2011).

As an educator, Evan has served as a middle and high school band director throughout Louisiana, an instructional staff member for the Blue Knights, Phantom Regiment and Spirit of Atlanta Drum and Bugle Corps, and a clinician for numerous marching bands, winterguards, and indoor drumlines.



Eric Gaudet | Brass Designer

Eric is currently one of the Band Directors at Edgar Martin Middle School in Lafayette, Louisiana where he teaches 5th through 8th grade band students along with Ms. Leola Woods. He was previously Assistant Director of Bands at Comeaux High School in Lafayette, Louisiana 2014-2016. Eric is a native of Thibodaux, Louisiana and received his BME from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

While at ULL, Eric performed with several school ensembles including the marching band, wind ensemble, orchestra, jazz band, and student brass quintet. He participated in Drum Corps International by marching with the Glassman Drum and Bugle Corps from 2011-12 and the Santa Clara Vanguard in 2013. Eric is currently on the Louisiana Stars brass staff as a high brass/trumpet instructor since 2015. He also has been a marching band instructor/consultant in the Lafayette area since 2012.

He also stays active in the music community by performing with the Lafayette Concert Band and First Baptist Orchestra along with performing at various local events. Eric is a current member of LMEA, NAFME, and SLBDA.