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MEDIA CONTACTS

Luis D. Sosa; Rebecca Miles

marketing@mandarins.org

Sacramento Mandarins, Inc.



Sacramento Mandarins announce 2018 brass staff
Mandarins brass under the direction of caption head Tim Snyder

SACRAMENTO, CA – The Sacramento Mandarins announce the entire 2018 season brass staff under the direction of Tim Snyder as Brass Caption Head, Aaron Wells as Assistant Brass Caption Head, Seth Murphy as Brass Consultant and Key Poulan as Brass Arranger.

“After a record-breaking 2017 season for the corps, we have returned with one of the finest brass teams in DCI, filled with amazing and highly-experienced educators from all over the country,” said Snyder. “As we anticipate this upcoming season, we are extremely excited about the future of the organization and look forward to continuing the incredible success of the Mandarins.”

TWEET THIS: [#DCI2018 news → @DCIMandarins announce 2018 brass staff under the direction of caption head Tim Snyder <http://mandarins.org/news/news.html>](#)

Aaron Wells, Assistant Brass Caption Head, is a seasoned instructor in his 20th year of teaching, currently in his 12th year at Edgewood High School. He began his drum corps experience in 1992 at Star of Indiana and went on to teach at both Madison Scouts and Troopers.

Trumpet tech Patrick Keeley is in his 28th year of teaching and is currently Assistant Director of Bands at Jasper High School in Jasper, Indiana. Keeley was previously part of the 2015-2017 Troopers brass staff. Kevin Leonard is also a trumpet tech and currently Assistant Director of Bands at East Hardin Middle School in Glendale, Kentucky. He was previously on visual staff for Troopers in 2016 and brass staff for Oregon Crusaders in 2017.

Jon Holloway, D.M.A., returns as a Mandarins mellophone tech for his fifth year and holds degrees from the University of Nevada, Reno; New York University; and University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He has performed with the Las Vegas Philharmonic and the Vancouver Symphony, and previously taught at Crossmen. Mellophone tech Christian DeJongh will be also joining the brass team with previous experience spanning Oregon Crusaders and the Netherlands drum and bugle corps Beatrix. High brass intern Sam Laulis currently lives in Baltimore, Maryland and holds a bachelor's in trumpet performance with a long history in the marching arts, including lead soprano and trumpet soloist for the Troopers.

Baritone tech Shane Montoya teaches at Arnold Middle School in Cypress, Texas as Assistant Director of Bands and holds a degree in music education from Stephen F. Austin State University. He previously worked with Guardians and Oregon Crusaders, and marched with Madison Scouts, Blue Knights and Bluecoats. Gordon Janda also received his music education degree from Stephen F. Austin State University, and will be teaching the baritones after previously marching six years with the Bluecoats.

Returning tuba technician Mary Cowperthwait marched contra with Academy from 2007 to 2009 and currently works in Springfield, Missouri as a K-5 General Music teacher at Springfield Public Schools in its Wonders of the Ozarks Learning Facility and Academy of Exploration programs. Tuba tech Gabe Gounaris is from Johnson City, Tennessee and studying music performance on tuba at Tennessee State University. He previously marched with Music City and Madison Scouts, and taught Oregon Crusaders. Low Brass intern Eric Obermeyer is currently studying music education at Murray State University and marched with Troopers and Santa Clara Vanguard.

For more information about Sacramento Mandarins 2018 auditions, please visit mandarins.org/auditions/detail.

Click to watch the 2017 horn line warm up (1:24):



Sacramento Mandarins horn line 2017 plays "Fantasy" chord progression at Family Day.

About Sacramento Mandarins

The Sacramento Mandarins is the only American DCI competitive drum and bugle corps with an Asian heritage. The Mandarins blend Asian traditions with drum corps to teach thousands of young men and women the values of respect, leadership, discipline, and good citizenship with a true sense of purpose. The 2018 season marks 55 years of providing a wholesome, worthwhile activity for community youth. Learn more at www.mandarins.org.