



ANNUAL
2019



REPORT
2020



The Colts Depend on Yamaha

From Camp Randall to Lucas Oil, from the Rose Bowl to the Citrus Bowl, it's no wonder that Yamaha is the most trusted name in the marching arts activity. Since 1984, drum and bugle corps using Yamaha have won an unmatched number of DCI titles, High Percussion awards and High Brass awards. This season, nearly 50% of all corps have a Yamaha instrument on the field. They know that if members can rely on their instrument, they only need to focus on the performance. Whether it be a brass or percussion instrument, a drum set or electronic keyboard, a speaker or mixer, a golf car or generator, more drum and bugle corps depend on Yamaha products than any other brand.



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A LETTER FROM THE CEO

Surviving The Pandemic; Adapting To Change

Who could have imagined as we gathered the drum corps at Roosevelt Middle School on February 16, that it would be our last day together in 2020? The pandemic forced the world's population to make shifts in every aspect of their lives.

When the Drum Corps International tour was canceled on March 26, we had to reimagine our summer, refocus on our mission, and put a plan together to not only survive until 2021 but make the most of the time we were all going to have being sheltered in place. We challenged our amazing educational team to develop a summer curriculum and, in a matter of days, we launched **Colts Homeroom** — a 16-week drum corps workout designed to help our students develop performance and movement skills, stay engaged with their peers, and gain the skills necessary to excel in future auditions.

We engaged nearly 200 students in our summer program. We're so proud of the work done by the students, our selfless instructional staff, and everyone else who helped take the drum corps to a better place throughout this most difficult time.

The organization was able to survive the summer with generous contributions by so many who value the arts as an important sector in our society. We were able to maintain a consistent office staff with support from the SBA's Paycheck Protection Program. Additional funding was provided by a Small Business Relief Grant from the **Iowa Economic Development Authority**. We were thrilled to learn that two arts and culture grants would continue to be funded — one from the **Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs** Cultural Leadership Partners Program and a second from the **City of Dubuque's Arts & Culture Funding** for operating support.

We would like to extend **a very special "Thank You" to our annual Music On The March sponsors**. Even with the cancellation of Dubuque's Summer Tradition, these generous businesses continued their support. You'll find their advertisements on the following pages. We're humbled by this amazing demonstration of community spirit and their belief in the significance of the Colts Youth Organization in the tri-state community.

Without the publication of our summer *Music On The March* program booklet, we wanted to put this Annual Report together to recognize all of the individuals and businesses who contributed throughout the past year. Prior to the COVID crisis, we were able to successfully raise the funding necessary for a new Colt Cadets trailer thanks in part to a few signature gifts as well as numerous donations of all sizes.

We will be back! And because of you, we will emerge from this global pandemic stronger than ever. Thank you so much for your continued support of our mission.

Best wishes to all for a safe and healthy transition to whatever comes next!

*Jeff MacFarlane, Executive Director
Colts Youth Organization*





World-Class Education

The RED ZONE provides all the instruction, education and feedback you need to earn a position in a World Class drum corps. Or, if you need a bit more training or experience, we have an Open Class series to help you develop fundamental skills to set you up for success!

Evaluation

Enrollment in the RED ZONE includes a personal video evaluation by one of our experienced educators. From there, we will work with you to decide what path is right for you. Our team will help you focus on specific improvement areas personalized to your own needs.



Virtual Instruction

Each online exercise is accompanied by a video to help guide you through the specifics of each lesson. Play along with our educational team and a metronome. Lessons are available for students of all abilities, from beginners to the most advanced performers.



Audition & Private Lessons

Participation in the RED ZONE opens up the opportunity to audition for the Colts or participate in Colt Cadets.

The initial audition is a one-on-one lesson with a Colts staff member. Students can enroll in as many additional lessons as desired.

Just curious on seeking guidance or a personal mentor? We will help you find the right educator to guide your growth.



START YOUR JOURNEY @ COLTS.ORG/REDZONE

DCI And Corps Remain Focused On The Future

Since the cancellation of the 2020 Drum Corps International Tour due to circumstances caused by the pandemic, DCI and its participating organizations have remained steadfast in their desire to bring Marching Music's Major League™ back to the field in 2021.

"During this unprecedented time, our hearts go out to those who have experienced a loss or who have been suffering physically, emotionally or economically due to the pandemic," said DCI CEO Dan Acheson. "We are continually grateful for the countless heroes in the healthcare field along with other frontline essential workers. Especially on our minds are those who are teaching and headed back into classrooms across the nation."

Since the cancellation of the 2020 DCI Tour in the spring, DCI leadership and the participating organizations have been in constant communication, meeting weekly to discuss, plan, and work through a myriad of challenges caused by the pandemic that are often compounding and changing on a daily basis. Since early in the onset of the pandemic, DCI corps directors have split into subcommittees to strategize and plan for a number of scenarios on topics ranging from health and wellness, to corps housing, to required changes to longstanding logistical procedures.

"With guidance from the medical professionals who share their experience, skills and talents in the Marching Music Health, Wellness & Safety Project, we're continuing to monitor the progress of the virus, the treatments, testing and how other like organizations around the world are reacting to performing and gathering," said **Colts Director Vicki MacFarlane who serves as chair of DCI's MarchOn! Task Force.** "It's apparent there are significant issues that will have to be tackled in order for DCI to stage events in 2021 with a focus on the safety and wellness of all of our participants, staff, volunteers and spectators."

Acheson says that while he is gaining optimism that we will see the return of marching music in some form in 2021, right now it's a waiting game to see how things develop as each participating corps has to follow its own set of guidelines on the state and local levels, as they look ahead to ramping up to resume operations as best suits their respective situations.

"Together with our fans, partners and donors, we are reaffirmed in our unwavering belief that the drum corps experience is important to our society," he said.

"We pledge our unconditional commitment to pour in the effort necessary to see the activity through in the coming year and to DCI's 50th anniversary in 2022 and beyond."

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Ron Coleman

For 40 years, Ron has been designing programs and instructing drum corps, bands and color guards.

He came to the Colts in 1990 with his friend and fellow Colts Hall of Famer ('15) Jeff Bridges. Together, they reimagined the Colts visual program with Jeff as designer and Ron as teacher. He was Jeff's right-hand man on staff and made sure the instructional staff followed procedures in rehearsal. According to J.B., "It is my belief he was as much a part of the success of the corps through the '90s as any other staff member including myself."

Ron was the ultimate team player. For the Colts, he would teach, drive, and help with any job that needed to be done. He was a great ear for members to talk to on a daily basis. He was a great listener and counselor for staff and members. Ron was the calm, level-headed-balance guy that could bring peace to any emotional situation on tour.

Dedicated, committed, helpful and, most importantly, caring.

For these traits and many others too numerous to mention here, Ron Coleman has absolutely earned the honor of being in the Colts Hall of Fame.



Nancy (Said) Felderman

After joining the Colts in 1966, Nancy (Said) Felderman was instrumental to developing the attitude of the color guard through the early 1970s. Jim Killoran (Colts HOF'17) described Nancy as "one of the fiercest competitors I have ever had the opportunity to teach."

Nancy and the rest of the color guard participated in their first color guard championship in 1968, and in 1969, the

corps won both the state championship and the Mid-America Drum Corps Circuit Championship.

Nancy then earned the role of guard captain in 1970 and helped lead both the corps and color guard to championship victories before winning another color guard championship in 1971 and a corps championship in 1972 at the Iowa State American Legion Championship.

Jim said, "Nancy exemplified the spirit, the attitude, and the initiative that remains with the Colts today. Nancy is truly a gem and she is one of the original members of the guard who set the standards that the Colts have followed for the past 57 years."



Peter Hansen

Peter attended his first audition weekend with son, Chris, in the fall of 2004. He had always been a "doer" and he jumped in to volunteer any way he could.

Following Chris' second season in the baritone section, he arrived for fall rehearsals — again with his dad. With an abundance of parents in the kitchen, Peter decided to attend a Saturday meeting of the Board of Directors just to see what was going on. He was welcomed in and was formally elected to the Board in 2007.

Peter was always a Board member to speak his mind, challenge convention, and try to push the organization to greater achievement. While the Colts would eventually charter buses (as they do today), Peter was a long-time proponent of "getting out of the bus business."

Peter was then splitting time between the family's home in Lawrence, Kansas, and his wife's apartment in Washington, D.C., where Gail had taken a job with the Centers for Disease Control.

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Following the historic election of the first black President of the United States, Peter conceived and organized the Colts Presidential Inaugural Parade participation in January 2009. The parade was not only an amazing opportunity for alumni to “put on the Reds” one more time, it also became a significant fundraiser for the organization.

When the Colts looked to expand their hosted events in 2010, Peter organized the first Colts-sponsored DCI show in the Kansas City metro area. Even though his residence has now permanently shifted from Lawrence, Kansas, to Washington, D.C., he continues to coordinate the show to this day — although he is aggressively seeking a replacement.

Peter became President of the Board in 2017, serving just two years, because his goal was to begin a regular succession of Board leadership — two years V.P., two years as President, and two years Past President.

As President, he became very involved in fundraising with special attention to large capital campaign projects. He helped drive several fundraising efforts including last year’s successful “Carry The Load” Campaign to replace both of the Colts semitrailers.

According to Colts Executive Director Jeff MacFarlane, “Actually, I just wanted to build the equipment trailer and leave the kitchen trailer for the following year. But Peter pushed us to fundraise for both at the same time and it worked.”

Peter remains engaged in fundraising and cultivating donors in his time as Past President. In addition to building the Colts donor base, Peter and his wife, Gail, have themselves been generous supporters throughout the years. And now that they are in D.C., they like to

take a day and make smoothies for the entire drum corps on a day that the Colts are heading up the East Coast.



Jim Johnson

Following a recommendation from then-drum major Ky Hascall, Jim Johnson joined the Colts in 1989, looking for a way to enhance his knowledge and skills for his future in music education. Jim played baritone for two years before aging out in 1990.

Prior to his age-out season, Jim began working in the Colts office, which continued into seasonal employment through 1992, having also been hired to teach brass and visual beginning in 1991. Jim’s graduation, full-time employment, and a move to Indiana brought his employment to an end mid-season 1992, but in 1996, Jim was hired to be the Director of the Colt Cadets. He served in that role in 1996 and 1997, simultaneously serving as the de facto brass caption head, tour manager, and 1997 drill writer.

In 1997, Jim experienced another college graduation, cross-country move, and a return to full-time employment, ending his close involvement with the Colt Cadets. He kept hanging around, though, and by that time he had pulled his partner Barry Magee into the activity as a frequent volunteer. Eventually, Barry became one of the recurring head cooks for the Colts, and when another job transition freed up Jim’s summers in 2001, Jim began his career as a cooktruck volunteer. Jim and Barry were regulars on the cooktruck until 2009, and Jim returned to occasional stints in that role a few years later.

Jim joined the Board of Directors in 2015 and served as a member for three years before being elected President at the end of 2018.



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Beyond the Colts, Jim was involved with the *Drums On The Ohio* competition in Evansville, IN between 1993 and 2001, serving as co-chair in 2000 and show chairman in 2001. He volunteered annually for Drum Corps International from 2008-2019, serving as local chair and site liaison for the Corps Experience Committee in 2008-2009.

Jim currently lives in Bloomington, IN with his husband Barry and two dogs, and he works at Indiana University as the Associate Director of the Student Involvement and Leadership Center. His professional work includes oversight of student organizations, leadership programs, and community engagement initiatives.



Doug Kenyon

Doug “Moonwhale” Kenyon was an inspiration to everyone who stood on the same field with him back in the 1970s. He played the game harder than anyone of his era. His motor was always running with his foot on the gas, even when the stick shift was in Park. And that rubbed off on everyone around him.

Doug carried a little more weight than many, but he still marked time higher (remember, members used to mark time by bringing your foot to your knee), he played with more intensity, and he was almost always the first one back to reset for the next rep. And his effort paid off.

Scanning through an old Drum Corps Planet forum about the best soloists that were not sopranos (trumpets), Doug’s name appears regularly — along with 2018 Colts HOF inductee David Lang. Doug was the Colts resident baritone

soloist in mid- to late-'70s, and after seven dedicated years here, he took his talents to the West Coast to spend one season with the Concord Blue Devils. And, of course, he was featured there in 1980 as half of the “Dindi” duet.

But he wasn’t done. Doug, now known as “Pooh Bear,” would go on to march in many all-age groups including the Kilties, Royal-Aires, and Renegades. He marched in the Anaheim Kingsmen Alumni Corps at the 2007 DCI World Championships in the Rose Bowl.

Doug married his Colts sweetheart, Cindy Steichen, and together they brought another amazing drum corps performer into the world. Kayla began in the Colt Cadets color guard in 2002 and finished her drum corps career a dozen years later, just months after Dad was taken by cancer. He was very proud of his daughter.

For these reasons, and many others that memory will later confirm, Doug “Moonwhale” Kenyon takes his rightful place in the 2020 Colts Hall of Fame. Doug would have just turned 60 in July of this year. His time has come to receive the Colts highest honor. R.I.P Moony!



Special thanks to the 2020 Colts Hall of Fame committee:

Christian Baughman, Chair ('17)
Greg Blum ('96)
Jim Killoran ('17)
Beth Wilson ('03)
J.J. Miller ('19)
Cindy Steichen
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The Colts Youth Organization was honored to receive
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The program provides multi-year, general operating support to major arts and cultural organizations that demonstrate an exemplary record of cultural and managerial excellence and community service on a continuing basis to the citizens of Iowa.

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The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs and its three divisions – the Iowa Arts Council, Produce Iowa-State Office of Media Production, and the State Historical Society of Iowa – empower Iowa to build and sustain culturally vibrant communities by connecting Iowans to the people, places and points of pride that define our state. The department's work enables Iowa to be recognized as a state that fosters creativity and serves as a catalyst for innovation where the stories of Iowa are preserved and communicated to connect past, present and future generations.

Funding for the Cultural Leadership Partners Program is made possible by an annual appropriation from the Iowa Legislature to the Iowa Arts Council, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, and by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.



In 2019, the Colts Youth Organization was honored to receive a \$30,000 grant from the City of Dubuque's Arts & Culture Funding For Operating Support.

Since 2006, the City of Dubuque has awarded over \$380,000 to the Colts.

The Colts Youth Organization, along with its 300+ student members, would like to extend appreciation to the Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission for their continuing support of the Colts and Colt Cadets!

Thank You!



Masterpiece on the Mississippi

Thank you very much for your support of the Colts organization! The following are donors to the Colts since *Music On The March*, 2019. We could not do it without you! **Thank you!**



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Mark & Cheryl Falb, Dubuque, IA

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Since 1985, the Dubuque Racing Association has awarded over \$375,000 to the Colts.

The Colts Youth Organization would like to thank the DRA for their continuing support of our mission to use music and excellence to teach each other about success in life!

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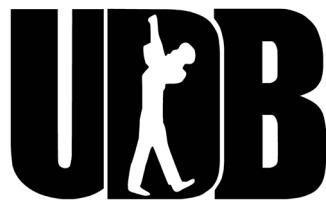
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OUR PEOPLE MAKE the DIFFERENCE

THERE'S STILL TIME TO MAKE A DONATION TO OUR ANNUAL APPEAL

We are all living in an unknown world managing the effects of COVID-19. Every one of us has been impacted in some way. The Colts, and the drum corps activity, certainly are not immune. **But we are quickly reminded of all the incredible people that make up the Colts.** Not just the members — who are among the best in the activity — but also our amazing instructional staff, dedicated board members working behind the scenes, and our unbeatable legion of alumni and volunteers.

SO WHERE DOES THIS LEAVE US? Essentially, we have two years of operations with only one year of income. We saved thousands by not going on tour, no doubt, but we also lost many more thousands by not performing, not hosting events like Music On The March, and not selling t-shirts and other merchandise. Were you planning to attend a show last summer? Please consider making a gift to our Annual Appeal for what you might have spent on tickets or merchandise. If you've recently sent a donation, we want to thank you for your gift. **And if you're a monthly donor...well, we're at a loss because social distancing does not allow us to give you a BIG hug! (Is your t-shirt still in good shape? We can send another.)**

We believe the Colts will emerge from this global pandemic stronger than ever. And we have 57 years of history reminding us that we can do it! Thank you so much for your continued support of our mission!

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