

2024 NABBA Championships Adjudicators

Anne Crookston

Professor Anne Crookston was born in Glasgow and has enjoyed a wide-ranging musical career, having been involved in choirs, brass bands, orchestras, and wind bands throughout her career. Her earliest musical training was on tenor horn, moving to baritone at aged 14. At the same time, Anne started playing oboe, later going on to study the instrument at Glasgow University, where she also conducted the Brass Ensemble, Wind Band and Orchestra before graduating with a B.Mus. (Hons) degree in Music. Her brass band career began at Newmains in Lanarkshire. She moved to CWS (Glasgow) in 1986 and success soon followed when, in 1990, the band became the first from Scotland to win the National Championship title at the Royal Albert Hall. Anne moved to Whitburn Band in 1992 and remained solo baritone there until 2010, when she left to pursue a career in conducting. Following a short spell conducting Kingdom Brass, Anne was appointed Musical Director of Whitburn in 2011 and to the same positions with West Lothian Schools in 2013 and Bathgate Band in 2014. As an adjudicator, Anne has a wealth of experience having judged at local music festivals and solo and ensemble contests, as well as throughout Europe at contests including the European Youth Championship, Siddis Brass (Norway) and regional and national events in Denmark, The Netherlands, Sweden and the UK. Most recently she was selected to adjudicate the 2023 Yorkshire Regionals for the British National Championships. Away from brass bands, Anne is Deputy Headteacher at St. Margaret's Academy in Livingston and has completed a master's degree in education.

Dr. Howard Evans

Dr. Howard J Evans, DMA, MA, Mus.B (Hons), LRAM, LTCL, ARCM (Hons) works as a professional musician. As a pianist and conductor, he has performed at many major concert venues throughout the United Kingdom. He has also made regular visits overseas to Canada and the USA, as well as to The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Austria, France, and Switzerland. Posts held include that of National Bandmaster for the Salvation Army in the UK; Director of Music for the SA in The Netherlands, and conductor of Amsterdam Staff Band. He has also held the post as Director of Classical Performance at the University of Salford. For over twenty years he has been the Bandmaster of Boscombe Band of The Salvation Army, and has conducted them in numerous concerts, festivals, tours, major Salvation Army events and weekly worship services. With Boscombe Band he has directed a number of significant CD projects, including the Sanctuary volumes and An Easter Tale. He has often worked as a guest conductor for a number of major UK bands, appearing at the RNCM Festival of Brass; as well as directing Jaren Hornmusikkforening, and Ila Brass Band, Elite Division bands in Norway. He has also conducted at the British Open contest. His adjudicating experience has seen him work at a number of festivals in the UK, in the Netherlands, and at the NABBA Championships. In addition to adjudicating at both regional and national brass band contests, he has undertaken work as an examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music in Singapore, Macao, China, Poland, Spain, Portugal, Oman, and the UK.

Dr. John Falskow

Dr. John Falskow is Director of Instrumental Music at Tacoma Community College, where he also has served as Chair of the Music Department and as the Dean of the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Division. Dr. Falskow conducts the TCC Orchestra, TCC Symphonic Band, and teaches a wide variety of classes in the college music curriculum. In addition to duties at TCC, he is an active conductor, music educator, and trumpeter in the Northwest region, serving as the founder and conductor of Brass Band Tacoma. Additionally, he conducts the Seattle Wind Symphony, and the Puget Sound Youth Wind Ensemble. For nine years he was the conductor of PugetBrass – a Seattle based British brass band. For most of the last 21 years he has conducted Brass Unlimited – a 15 piece brass and percussion ensemble. Falskow has also guest conducted with many brass ensembles and brass bands in the Pacific Northwest. In March 2018, John was the featured guest conductor and clinician at the Northwest Brass Festival. As a cornet player, Dr. Falskow performed with Kansas City's Fountain City Brass Band when they won the 2016 North American Brass Band Championships. Most recently, he has served as adjudicator for the NABBA 1st Section Championships.

Nicholas Garman

Nicholas began playing the cornet when he was 6 years old, later joining the Bristol Easton Salvation Army Band. Nicholas held the position of Music Scholar at Bristol Cathedral School and whilst a pupil there joined the Sun Life Band under Dr. Roy Newsome. At university, he was a member of Enfield Citadel Band, First City Brass and the BBC Concert Band based at Elstree Studios, receiving lessons from Rod Franks and Stephen Cobb. Since then, he has played with many of the country's finest bands including Brighouse, Cory, Fairey, Foden's and Grimethorpe. Nicholas' brass band honours include Swedish National Brass Champion, Butlins Mineworkers Open Champion, two time Midland Area Champion, and London and Southern Counties Area Champion. As a conductor, he has won 'best entertainment' in the Cory Online Entertainment Contest and other local entertainment contests and has also conducted at the National Finals of Great Britain. As an adjudicator, Nicholas has experience in all types of contests and at all levels. He joined the Association of Brass Band Adjudicators in 2013, was appointed to the executive in 2016, and has been AoBBA's secretary since 2019. He was awarded his Licentiate in conducting from the London College of Music in 2017. Nicholas is a Senior Examiner at the London College of Music and travels globally in this role. He holds Fellowships of the Royal Society of Arts and the Guild of Musicians and Singers, and is a Member of the Independent Society of Musicians.

William Himes

William Himes was born and raised in Michigan, where he attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, receiving his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Music Education and Performance/Composition. He taught instrumental music for five years in the public schools of Flint, Michigan, and where he was also an adjunct lecturer in low brass at the University of Michigan-Flint. From 1977 to 2015 he served as director of The Salvation Army's Music and Gospel Arts Department for USA Central Territory in Chicago, Illinois. In this capacity he also was the conductor of the Chicago Staff Band, which performed throughout North America as well as international tours including Europe, Asia, South America, Australia and New Zealand. Although retired since 2014, he continues to be in demand as conductor, clinician, adjudicator and soloist and has appeared throughout the United States, Argentina, Australia, Bermuda, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Haiti, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Well known for his compositions and arrangements, his works appear in more than 400 publications. Mr. Himes is a member of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) and his music is frequently featured on international broadcasts and recordings. He has adjudicated worldwide including numerous appearances at the NABBA Championships.

Paul Norley

Paul Norley began his musical career at the age of eight with the Devon based Totnes Band. In 1982 he joined the Army immediately on leaving school and in 1996 attended the Bandmaster's course at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall. Appointment as Bandmaster of The Light Division soon followed. While in this post he studied with the University of Salford and was awarded the Licentiate Diploma in Brass Band Adjudication. He was appointed as the Training Design Team Warrant Officer at Headquarters Corps of Army Music, Kneller Hall in 2003. On commissioning, he became Director of Music of The Band of The Royal Irish Regiment (2006) and Director of Music of The Band of The Kings Division (2008), also accepting the post of Musical Director to the National Youth Marching Band, an ongoing and immensely rewarding role. Promoted to Major in 2010 he was appointed as Officer Commanding Training Development Team, Kneller Hall. A further move in 2013 saw him become Director of Music of The Brigade of Gurkhas. He returned to Kneller Hall in 2016 as Staff Officer Plans. 2019 saw him appointed as Director of Music of The Band of The Coldstream Guards; he retired to civilian life from this prestigious appointment in 2021. Since then, he has taken on the role of President of the Traditional Marching Band Association, and now finds himself involved with Youth Marching Bands across the whole of the UK. Paul has enjoyed numerous competition successes as a conductor and regularly adjudicates at Brass Band Regional Qualifiers and local contests across the UK and overseas. Happy to step 'outside of the box', he is in constant demand delivering workshops and masterclasses for both bands and conductors.

Allan Ramsay

Allan Ramsay is regarded as one of Scotland's most successful conductors in recent years. His formative musical tuition began at the age of seven, in The Salvation Army at Govan Citadel where he learned to play the cornet. Allan studied trumpet and piano at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music in Glasgow and later went on to become the principal cornet of the then CWS (Glasgow) Band, whom in 1990 became the first, and to date only Scottish band to win the coveted National Championship title at the Royal Albert Hall. That year also saw Allan win his first Scottish Solo Championship. Following a period of eight years as Bandmaster of the Govan Citadel Band, Allan was appointed as Musical Director to the Kirkintilloch Band in 1995 and, for the next seven years, led the band through the most successful period in its history in terms of contest successes, culminating in victory the Grand Shield title in 2001. Further contest successes followed in the UK and Allan has regularly conducted at the National Championships, the British Open and the European Championships, and has also been a guest conductor with top bands such as the YBS and Brighouse and Rastrick. Allan has regularly adjudicated at various contests within the UK, including the Scottish Championships, British Open Grand Shield and at the National Finals in Harrogate, and since his relocation to the USA in 2017, has judged at the NABBA Championships on several occasions.

Dr. Jack Stamp

Currently serving as "International Composer in Association" to the world-renowned Grimethorpe Colliery Brass Band, Dr. Stamp recently served as visiting professor of music at Luther College, where he was acting director of bands and taught conducting. He spent the prior three years as adjunct faculty at UW-River Falls. He recently retired in 2015 as Professor of Music and Director of Band Studies at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where he conducted the Wind Ensemble and taught courses in graduate conducting. Dr. Stamp received his Bachelor of Science in Music Education degree from IUP, a Master's in Percussion Performance from East Carolina University, and a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Conducting from Michigan State University where he studied with Eugene Corporon. Additionally, he has composed works for the world-famous Barcelona Clarinet Players culminating in a new recording that will be released in early 2024. Prior to his retirement from IUP, he served as chairman of the Division of Fine Arts at Campbell University in North Carolina. He also taught for several years in the public schools of North Carolina. In addition to these posts, Dr. Stamp served as conductor of the Duke University Wind Symphony (1988-89) and was musical director of the Triangle British Brass Band, leading them to a national brass band championship in 1989.

Allan Withington

Allan grew up amongst the intense brass band community of Northern England. He was taught to play the cornet by his father and eventually played principal cornet with both the Wingates band and Fodens band. After a post graduate course, on trumpet, under Howard Snell, at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester he embarked upon a freelance career playing with many of Great Britain's leading orchestras including the London Symphony Orchestra. In 1991 he took up the position of professional musical director to one of the world's leading brass bands, Brighouse and Rastrick band from Yorkshire, England. Then followed the most successful period in the band's 120 year long history, culminating in winning the National Championship of Great Britain in 1997 and 1998. The band won the All England Masters Champions in 1998 and the European Champions the same year. In 2013 Allan, together the Manger Musikklag from Norway, managed a fantastic first place at the World Music Contest held in Kerkrade, Holland. Later in the year and with yet another innovative program, Allan and Stavanger won 'Siddis Brass' in November. From the early days of Valaisia Brass Band Allan has been engaged as musical adviser and is both proud and pleased to help the band during this fantastic success story. In 2014 Stavanger Brass Band under his leadership won the North American Brass Band Championships and wins at the the Norwegian Championships in 2015 and 2020 has made sure that Allan is always around in the contesting honors. He has worked throughout the world, playing, teaching, adjudicating, recording, and conducting and likes to push the boundaries for what is artistically possible.

John Phillips, 2024 NABBA Championship Judge Administrator

In demand throughout North America and internationally as an adjudicator and clinician, Professor John Phillips will serve as the Judge Administrator for the 2024 NABBC. In recent years Phillips has adjudicated the US Open, The Gateway Brass Band Championships, the Dublin Festival of Bands, and the North American Brass Band

Association Championships. Throughout his career, he has contributed to numerous initiatives with *Music For All* including the National Concert Festival, the annual Summer Symposium, and the Bands of America Grand Nationals. He is a Conn-Selmer Educational Clinician and serves as Adjunct Professor at Florida Gulf Coast University. He recently was Artistic Coordinator for the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra. Prior to moving to Florida, he was on staff at the University of Western Ontario, where he conducted the Symphonic Band and taught conducting and music education classes. He previously taught at the University of Toronto and York University in the departments of music and education. Phillips has adjudicated music festivals and events in North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Indonesia. He regularly guest conducts honor bands across Canada and the United States. For twenty years he conducted the Wind Ensemble at the National Music Camp of Canada and has been a guest conductor at the International Music Camp. Phillips has served as Judge Administrator for Drum Corps International since 2000, and was inducted into the DCI Hall of Fame, Class of 2015. He is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario where he received undergraduate degrees in Music and Education. He pursued a Masters Degree in Music Education at Boston University, a PhD in Ethnomusicology at York University, and holds an Artist Diploma in trumpet performance from the Western Conservatory of Music. He received awards of distinction for conducting from the Ontario Band Association, Phi Beta Mu, the Southern Ontario Band Festival, and an Honorary Life Membership from the Ontario Music Educators' Association. As a trumpeter, Phillips performed with the London Symphony Orchestra, Brantford Symphony and the Forest City Brass Quintet. He spent two summers at the Banff School of Fine Arts under the leadership of the Canadian Brass, studying with Fred Mills and Ronald Romm.

Championship Section

Nicholas Garman, Allan Withington, Dr. Howard Evans

1st Section

William Himes, Paul Norley, Allan Ramsay

2nd Section

Anne Crookston, Dr. John Falskow, Dr. Jack Stamp

3rd Section

Nicholas Garman, Allan Withington, Dr. Howard Evans

Youth Championship

Anne Crookston, Dr. John Falskow, Dr. Jack Stamp

Youth 1st/Open

William Himes, Paul Norley, Allan Ramsay