

## **About Winter Guard International (WGI)**

WGI Sport of the Arts is the world's premier organization producing indoor color guard and percussion ensemble competitions. As a non-profit youth organization, WGI serves as the leading governing body of the winter guard and indoor percussion activities. It is called the Sport of the Arts because it brings music to life through performance in a competitive format. Now entering its 36th year, the sport continues to evolve and grow. There were more than 36,000 participants at the regional level, and more than 11,000 participants at the Sport of the Arts World Championships this past April.

### **WGI's Purpose**

WGI Sport of the Arts provides a venue for young people to achieve the extraordinary through performance and competition.

### **WGI's Mission**

WGI Sport of the Arts:

- organizes high-energy and enjoyable color guard and percussion events.
- provides leadership through education to constantly improve the quality of ensembles
- develops our judging systems and adjudicators to ensure fair competition
- partners with corporations, educators and others to increase awareness and recognition of our art forms.

### **WGI's Values**

WGI Sport of the Arts:

- exists for the participants, their leaders and supporters
- inspires our participants to achieve the highest artistic and creative standards
- views competition as a means to encourage the highest standard of excellence
- treats every participant as a unique individual with inherent dignity regardless of race, gender, creed, sexual orientation, origin or cultural background.
- believes that every program and style starts with an equal opportunity for success

### **General Info**

WGI was founded in 1977 to draw together the growing winter guard activity, standardize rules, and provide leadership and guidance. Now there is an international organization that offers:

- Standardized judging criteria within the activity
- Improved communication.
- Cooperation of local circuit organizations.
- An Educational Division offering clinics, and both printed and video materials regarding the color guard and indoor percussion activities.
- A network of Regional contests in the U.S., Canada, and Europe culminating in an annual International Championship in April.

WGI Sport of the Arts is governed by a Board of Directors composed of representatives from the top color guards and indoor percussion ensembles in the world, and "At Large" positions for individuals who bring their professional experiences to share with WGI.

### **Competition**

WGI uses a competition-based approach for organizing events in order to showcase youth activities in pursuit of high standards of achievement. Events include about 42 Regionals and Elite Events, which lead to the three-day World Championships that evaluate more than 300 guards and 170 percussion ensembles from over 40 states and 4 countries.

### **Education**

Color guard and indoor marching percussion ensembles are considered part of the music education curriculum by most schools. Education is the basis for the developmental criteria, which defines the measurement for competitive advancement. WGI

Sport of the Arts provides curriculum materials for classes in equipment, movement, and design. WGI provides a full educational program for instructors and judges through seminars and video materials.

The organization promotes higher education by annually awarding \$20,000 in academic scholarships to students from our competing units.

### **Indoor Percussion**

An **indoor percussion ensemble** or **indoor drumline** consists of the marching percussion (also called battery) and front ensemble (also called pit) sections of a marching band or drum corps. Indoor percussion marries elements of music performance, marching, and theater; thus, the activity is often referred to as percussion theater. Although most indoor percussion ensembles are affiliated with high schools, there are also many independent groups that draw participants from a large area.

### **Competition Classifications:**

All WGI contests provide two divisions of competition:

**Scholastic** - units whose membership comes from the SAME High School or a school that feeds to that particular High School.

**Independent** - units whose members are not necessarily associated with a particular school.

The units are then further divided into classes:

- A Class – Beginning programs and performers.
- Open Class - The intermediate developmental level of performers.
- World Class - The most advanced programs and performers.

Percussion also has Scholastic Concert Classes for units who do not include marching in their programs.

### **Did you know...**

- Winter Guard and Indoor Percussion are the fastest growing of the marching arts.
- Winter Guard now exists in the United States, Canada, Belgium, Holland, Germany, England, Ireland, Korea, Japan, and Africa.
- WGI's educational materials serve as the curriculum in many schools that have classes in equipment and movement.
- WGI's artistic direction is fully controlled by the units.
- WGI has awarded over \$375,000 in academic scholarships to students from competing units.
- More than 600 volunteers staff the regionals and World Championship contests.
- More than 150,000 spectators enjoy the activities at WGI Regionals and World Championships annually.
- More than 600 local competitions are sponsored, yielding an additional 100,000 spectators.
- Many of the percussion companies are now developing instruments specifically for the indoor activity.
- Hundreds of high school marching bands benefit from the skills developed by winter programs.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND LINKS**

FFCC (Florida Federation of Color Guard Circuits) The regional circuit in which Lowndes High Percussion will be competing – [www.ffcc.org](http://www.ffcc.org)

WGI (Winter Guard International) The larger governing body of the activity with regards to rules and procedures. – [www.wgi.org](http://www.wgi.org)

You Tube – [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) I encourage you to search for videos of Music City Mystique, Rhythm X, Riverside Community College, and scholastic groups such as Father Ryan, Ayala, Chino Hills, etc.