



Dr. T. Kinard Douthit

Adjudicator #1

Flutist, Dr. T. Kinard Douthit is an avid performer and music educator from Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Currently, Dr. Douthit is an Assistant Professor of Music and Instructor of Flute and Music Business at Winston-Salem State University, Assistant Director of Bands, and Conductor of the WSSU Flute Choir. Formerly, Dr. Douthit taught in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System for seven years as Director of Bands at Philo Middle School. His latest publication, “Fixing Fussy Flute Faux Pas” was the featured article in the October 2017 issue of *Teaching Music*, and the February 2018 issue of *International*

Journal of Music and Performing Arts. His research focuses on African-American composers of flute music and flute pedagogical techniques. Dr. Douthit also recently joined the Instrumental Faculty of the North Carolina’s Governor’s School.

Currently, Dr. Douthit is the Principal Flutist of the Piedmont Winds and also performs with countless ensembles and organizations across North Carolina. Prior to the pandemic, Dr. Douthit performed with the Western Piedmont Symphony Chamber Orchestra for their Educational Concert Tours, and also performs regularly with the North Carolina Black Repertory Company, and Community Theater of Greensboro. He has performed a variety of shows with Twin City Stage, Paramount Acting Company, Gallery Players, Kernersville Little Theater, Elon University, Town of Lewisville Community Theatre, Stained Glass Playhouse, High Point Community Theatre, and Greensboro College. Dr. Douthit performs regularly as a soloist and chamber musician, with faculty chamber ensembles, and is now engaged with several commercial projects across the triad area.

Dr. Douthit completed the Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from Appalachian State University, the Master of Music degree in Flute Performance from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of North Carolina at

Greensboro. Dr. Douthit holds memberships in the National Flute Association, NC Music Educators Association, and the National Association for Music Education, the HBCU National Band Director's Consortium, the Intercollegiate Music Association, and has recently joined the board of Equality North Carolina.



Ms. Kania C. Mills

Adjudicator #2

Clarinetist/Saxophonist Kania Mills is from Charlotte, North Carolina. She received her Bachelor's degree in Clarinet Performance from the North Carolina School of the Arts (2008), where she studied with Robert Listokin, Daniel McKelway and Igor Begelman. She was then awarded a two-year teaching assistantship at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts for graduate studies and received her Master of Music degree in Clarinet Performance (2010). She has performed as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States and has participated in many conferences and festivals. She has received numerous awards, including performing artist scholarships and was a finalist in the Astral Artists National Auditions in 2009.

Ms. Mills held the principal clarinet position in the A. J. Fletcher Opera Institute, and was an A. J. Fletcher Opera Scholar for 5 years. She has had studies with Charles Neidich from the Juilliard School and her masterclass performances include work with distinguished musicians, clarinetist Richard Stoltzman, jazz clarinetist Eddie Daniels, Alan Kay, and the New York Woodwind Quintet.

Ms. Mills has performed Broadway Productions in New York under the direction of Broadway Maestro Kevin Stites, and has performed productions under the direction of Broadway Conductor Steven Freeman as well. She has held the E-flat clarinet position for 17 years with the Piedmont Wind Symphony and has performed with Grammy Award winning artists, Al Jarreau, Diane Schurr, Ronnie Milsap, Dionne Warwick, Arturo Sandoval, The Three Irish Tenors, Paul Anka, Kenny G, Neil Sedaka, Ben Folds, The Wailers, and Dee Dee Bridgewater.

Ms. Mills subs regularly with the Western Piedmont Symphony Orchestra, Salisbury Symphony and the Salisbury Swing Band. She has been the Concertmaster for the Salem Band for nine years. The Salem Band is the oldest, continuous mixed wind ensemble in the nation. She plays tenor sax for the Salem Swing Band and is the Manager of the Salem Sax Quartet. Ms. Mills has recently taken a new position with Your Neighborhood Orchestra based in Charlotte, N.C. where she performs as a multi-woodwind artist. YNO is a professional graffiti-style street orchestra that spotlights a wide range of original music in the local scene and beyond.

Ms. Mills is currently Professor of Woodwinds and Assistant Director of Bands at Livingstone College. She also teaches private lessons (clarinet and saxophone) to students of all ages. Her students have consistently placed first chair over the past fourteen years in All-County, All-District and All-State clarinet and saxophone auditions. Her students have also placed first chair in All-District and All-State Jazz auditions. Many of her students have gone to college pursuing a career in music education or music performance.



Mr. Abdullah Rahman

Adjudicator #3

A standout favorite among peers, as well as a generous, thought provoking and tasteful accompanist. Abdullah Rahman's career has taken him from concert halls, theaters and festivals across the United States as well as extensive tours abroad. Abdullah's artistic reputation as a competent, dynamic yet sensitive live and studio session player has landed him work with notable artists in the industry such as Johnny Mathis, Roy Clark, Lillias White, and Lou Donaldson. Abdullah's ability to read, write, arrange and interpret musical charts sets him apart from other drummers/percussionists in the genres of Contemporary, Classic, Bop and Post Bop Jazz. His ability to fuse the worlds of Jazz and Classical repertoire

garners appreciation and attraction from Classical Ensembles, Orchestras, Percussion Ensembles and Stage Productions. Big Bands, Jazz Ensembles, Rhythm & Blues Bands, Jazz Combos and Salsa Bands request and are intrigued by Abdullah's extensive repertoire and musical knowledge. His ability to interpret and perform with technical precision while displaying creativity, appreciation, sensitivity and respect for the stylistic integrity of the 'Music of the Day' is why the listener will always be left wanting more. Abdullah holds a Master's degree in Percussion Performance from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and a Bachelors of Science degree in Music Business from Winston-Salem State University.