Patrick Blakley is a percussionist and author from Woodard, NY. He is a member of the New York Federation of Contest Judges, the Pennsylvania Federation of Contest Judges, the National Judges Association, and has served in adjudication roles for several championship events. For over three decades, he has contributed to pageantry ensembles across the country including marching bands, indoor percussion groups, WGI winds ensembles, and both DCA and DCI drum corps – as a performer, instructor, composer, and director. All of Patrick's scholastic ensembles became multiple state champions while he was on staff or director.

His 326-page percussion technique and warm-up method book has been adopted by over 350 schools in 44 states, as well as in Canada, Mexico, Japan, South Korea, South America, and Europe. Some notable ensembles that have incorporated his work include the Starlight Symphony Orchestra, Benedictine College, Southern Arkansas University, West Chester University, the University of Wyoming, and the Berklee College of Music Accessible Arts Program. In 2021, the Cadets Drum & Bugle Corps demonstrated various exercises from his percussion warmup selections, and his materials are also featured on a number of smartphone metronome apps, including the popular Drumr iOS app.

Through his company **CompetitiveMusic.com**, Patrick works as a sound designer, music editor, and program consultant for winterguards across the country – including WGI Scholastic World and Independent World finalists. His audio work also extends to dance, figure skating, gymnastics, cheerleading, artistic swimming, and other performance arts. His work has recently been featured by the University of Michigan Collegiate Synchronized Skating Team (U.S. National silver medalists) and the Swan River Sirens Artistic Swimming Club of Perth, Australia.

A former marching member of the Syracuse Brigadiers Drum & Bugle Corps, Patrick spent four seasons performing in the tenor line during the early 2000s. He has earned gold and bronze medals in DCA I&E events and received two High Music Caption Awards at the DCA World Championships. Patrick is a member of the Percussive Arts Society, the National Band Association, the National Association for Music Education, and the New York State School Music Association. He is an artist/educator with Innovative Percussion and Epiarch Drums, as well as a certified music/percussion judge with Winterguard International, Cavalcade of Bands, Tournament of Bands, Tournament Indoor Association, Pennsylvania Interscholastic Marching Band Association, Lakeshore Marching Band Association, Pennsylvania Interscholastic Marching Band Association, and New York State Field Band Conference, as well as numerous spring pageantry contests including the Sherburn Pageant of Bands.

He owns and operates **SyracuseDrums.com**, a private percussion studio where he records and teaches lessons on nearly every percussion instrument. Patrick recorded drumset for two full-length studio concept albums with the progressive rock band Our 11th Hour. He is a Syracuse Area Music Awards (SAMMY Awards) winner and three-time finalist, while SyracuseDrums itself has been recognized as a two-time SAMMY Award finalist for an Academic or Musical Organization. Patrick has also been nominated for the WCNY Music Educator Award for his work in and beyond his studio.

Patrick has written a collection of marching percussion instructional books covering everything from tenor drumming concepts to full field percussion ensemble performance. He is also the author of an engaging children's book and a 320-page young adult novel, both centered around the world of marching band. Each story uses music as a lens for self-discovery, encouraging young readers to better understand themselves and find their place in the world. The novel, Drummond, earned glowing editorial reviews, reached Amazon eBook bestseller status, and received multiple four- and five-star awards. Writer's Digest praised it as "*a unique approach to personal identity and being a kid in the world… compelling and tender all at once.*" The novel went on to earn more than a dozen local and national award nominations, including as a finalist for the CNY Book Awards in 2021.

Patrick holds a degree in History and International Studies. He is a member of the List & Index Society and two local historical associations, where he volunteers as an archivist and writer, collaborating closely with his town's historian. His research has been officially utilized by the National Geodetic Survey to recover triangulation markers and survey monuments lost for over fifty years. Patrick is also a frequently cited source for his historical research on the Narodna Odbrana of the Balkans. In his spare time, Patrick curates a large personal collection of antique toasters and, of course, is a proud member of the Toaster Collectors Association. Additionally, he is the recipient of a Gourmand International 'BEST IN THE WORLD' Cookbook Award for his three-part satirical culinary series *Cooking With A Two Slot Toaster*. You can read more at **PatrickBlakley.com**