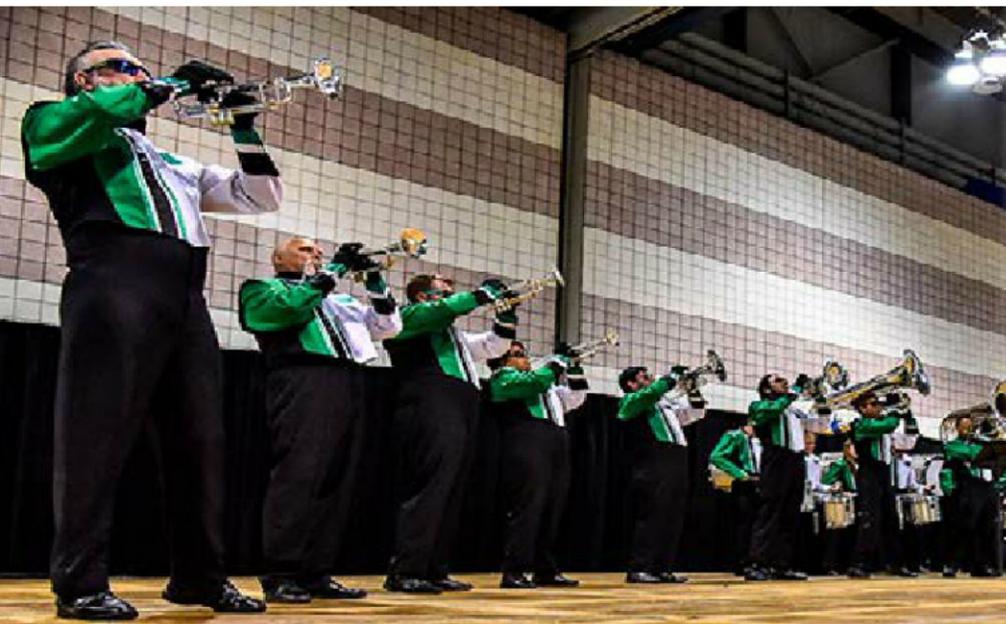




09 / 02 -- Rochester, NY DCA Mini-corps, I&E contests

photos by Chris Maher, Drum Corps World staff (chris@corpsreps.com)



(Top to bottom, left to right): **Brig Juice**, Syracuse, NY; **Star United**, Indianapolis, IN; **Govenaires**, St. Peter, MN; (inset) additional members going to China with the Govenaires; **Freelancers**, Sacramento, CA; and **Rocketeers**, Huntsville, AL.





(Top to bottom, left to right): **Bridgemen Mini-corps**; **Kilties**; John Flowers representing the U.S.Air Force Corps; **Govenaires**' Lawson and Schmeichel; **Bushwackers**' Richie Frantzman; **Skyliners**' Corey and Ridey; **Blast from the Past**; **Cincinnati Tradition**; **Excelsior**'s James Barber; **White Sabers**' Orion Wilkerson; **Fusion Core**'s Gage Kroljic; and the **Bridgemen Alumni** color guard.



09/02 -- Rochester, NY



by Bill Flaker, Drum Corps World staff (wrflaker@aol.com)

The 2016 DCA Championship weekend kicked off in grand style as the organization held its annual competition of individuals and ensembles. Once again the events were held on Main Street and in the Riverside Convention Center as a very large crowd was on hand to witness the action. The weather for the street events was absolutely perfect, while the number of ensembles in competition was up from last year. I am always impressed by the support from the corps members who show up and cheer on their fellow performers. [See also the photos on the two previous pages.]

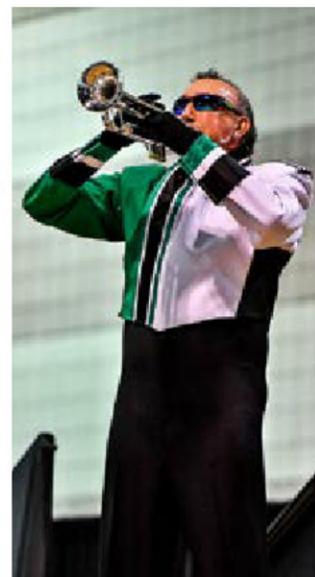
Bob Hagelburger has been a constant entry for over 20 years with his old-style military rifle work and is always a crowd favorite. Christina Eames led off the dance event with her teddy bear tagging along. She has no corps affiliation, but she is the grand daughter of former I&E Chairperson Dick Pronti. This talented young lady is keeping his legacy alive.

Even though they are the smallest corps in DCA, Excelsior had a great night as **Ashley White** topped a strong field in individual flag. A great deal of credit has to be given to **Zoey Meyers**, also of Excelsior. Off to a strong start in the flag event, Zoey had a breakdown. She recovered with a strong finish and a standing ovation from the fans. Unfortunately, she lost her father two months ago and she dedicated her performance to him. That, drum corps fans, is what it is all about.

One of the most packed venues of the night was the patio at the Riverside Convention Center where the percussion duets and individuals were held. The only drawback to this venue was that it was too small to hold the very large crowd in attendance. Credit to former Hurricane member and DCA I&E volunteer Joe Stefon for keeping his venue running smoothly.



Chris Eddy from Fusion Core posted the highest scoring number tonight with a 99 in the visual combo event. **Saints Brigade** was a big hit on Main Street with their brass choir, percussion ensemble and drum corps in exhibition for the fans. Member **Andrew Mitchell** was introduced to fans as he will be leaving for the Marine Corps to be stationed at Paris Island next week. Good luck,



stay safe and a huge thank you to this young man.

The **Blast from the Past** (left, Chris Maher) was another fan favorite in the visual ensemble category, dressed as angels with halos, two nuns carrying yardsticks and, of course, the devil himself with fake eyeballs that would scare anyone. All of this evening's venues finished ahead of schedule as the entire team of volunteers did a great job on keeping the event running smoothly.

On to the Grand Ballroom and the mini-corps event with five units in competition. The DCA World Champion Honor Guard from the White Sabers, under the leadership of Gary Richardson, presented the colors of Canada and the United States with National Anthems from both countries played. The **Govenaires Shanghigh Festival Corps**

(upper right, Chris Maher) will be off to China shortly and were first up tonight in exhibition. Drum Major John Mayer kept the fans entertained and had them clapping in time with the music. The encore of *Show Me the Way To Go Home* had corps members from the audience, along with staff and friends, making one long and crazy chorus line much like the Radio City Rockettes.

The **Rocketeers** (right, Chris Maher) were making their third





mini-corps appearance with their show titled, "Rock with the King," a medley of Elvis Presley hits. They opened with *2001, A Space Odyssey*, then into the Elvis book of *Viva Las Vegas, Jailhouse Rock, American Trilog*y and a company front ending to *Dixie*.



(Top left, James Barber from *Excelsior*; middle left, Jam VanDerLinden from the *Skyliners*, Chris Maher)



Brigs Juice (top right, Chris Maher) with Drum Major Trevor Stoyer in control presented a Spanish-style musical book. They had several excellent and talented soloists performing, along with a solo dancer in *My Spanish Heart*. Arnold Zampi has been a member of the Syracuse Brigadiers for 63 years and is still going strong as a member of the horn line!

The **Bridgemen Alumni Corps** (below, Chris Maher) performed a



medley of their classic hits as they opened with *Pagliacci*. They closed their show with *Spanish Dreams* as a company front push and a large park-and-blow gave way to a standing ovation from fans.

The fan favorite may have been the **Freelancers** (below, Chris Maher) with their Concord Blue Devils musical book. A nice moving drill blended well with the music as visually they used



chairs and step stool props for the mellophone and tuba sections to perform on. Their drumset player was a visual highlight that drew fans' applause as a big finish to the front end of their show. A standing ovation was given for a very strong showing from the California corps.

In the sports world, there is an expression that goes, "To be the Champ, You Have to Beat the Champ." **Star United** (below, Chris Maher) once again proved they will not be beaten as they retained their mini-corps championship. The lovely Becky Saddlemire led the corps in a drill with a super strong horn line. Their show music was from *To Tame the Perilous Skies* by David Holsinger.

This is the total package mini-corps from top to bottom as their big finish to the end concluded another championship performance.

Dick Fishette and his amazing staff once again went above and beyond with a smoothly-run show as all venues finished ahead of schedule. As has always been in the case, a huge thanks to all of the drum corps that supported and cheered on their fellow members to make this event a success.

