

July 10, 2021

Dear Cadets Hall of Fame Committee,

It is my distinct pleasure and honor to write to you in support of Jacob Gall for nomination to the Cadets Hall of Fame (“Contemporary” category). I can confidently say that there is no individual who deserves this recognition more than Jacob. Please allow me to explain why his contributions to the corps merit such prestigious acclaim and why permanent recognition of Jacob Gall amongst the Cadet legends is rightly justified.

Jacob began his journey with The Cadets as a member of the snare line from 2006-2008 under the tutelage of Tom Aungst. He quickly garnered the attention of his peers and staff members in recognition of his masterful performance and selfless leadership abilities. Accordingly, he was appointed to Section Leader of the drumline for his age out season in 2008 – the same year he was awarded the prestigious Cadet of the Year award. Many eras of Cadet percussionists are familiar with Jacob’s presence and impact on The Cadets during these years.

Jacob then became one of the rare members in corps history to be recruited immediately after aging out to join the battery staff in 2009; however, his first year on staff brought a new set of challenges. Colin McNutt was named the Battery Arranger/Caption Head despite Tom Aungst holding this position while Jacob was a marching member. This situation was the first of many crossroads in Cadets percussion history that Jacob masterfully navigated throughout his tenure with the group. Throughout this transition, he successfully maintained the tradition of Cadet excellence while simultaneously garnering the utmost respect from his colleagues of past and present. His reputation as an elite educator and a deeply trusted colleague began to permeate the organization, and his influence on the next chapter of Cadets percussion began to take shape.

Over the following years, Jacob found himself at another crossroads of Cadets percussion history. In 2011, he heavily contributed to the corps’s 10th World Championship; however, the following year, the 2012 snare line was comprised entirely of rookies. None of these members had rehearsed or performed as a Cadet, and none of them had any knowledge of the historic traditions/culture of the corps. To no one’s surprise, Jacob embraced these new performers with open arms, simultaneously teaching the technical skills of marching percussion while also mentoring them on core Cadet values and principles. In these moments, 78 years of Cadet history rested on Jacob’s shoulders, and he selflessly bridged the past to the present, ensuring the continued excellence of Cadet percussion.

The fruits of this labor were realized at the final two regional performances of the 2012 season (Atlanta, Allentown) when this same rookie snare line won Best Percussion against all other DCI percussion sections. Jacob was fittingly awarded Staff Member of the Year following the 2012 summer. Finally, during the following season, these members returned and were officially awarded the 2013 Fred Sanford Best Percussion award. Jacob was one of the most critical influences leading to this percussion section’s historic success.

These drumlines inspired me to join The Cadets in 2016. Further, having known of Jacob’s influence on Cadets percussion, I was eager to figure out what made him such an incredible educator. During my first few rehearsals with Jacob, I quickly realized what made him different. His ability to translate complex technical concepts into concise, yet thorough,

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explanations never ceased to amaze the drumline. Further, he always had a finger on the pulse of the group. He expertly understood and addressed the exact needs (both physical and mental) of his students. He knew precisely what to say, and when to say it - something that many educators never figure out, let alone master. Looking back on my experiences with him, I can confidently say that Jacob Gall was the greatest teacher I ever had in my 10+ years of marching percussion. This includes multiple members currently inducted within the DCI and Cadets Hall of Fames.

Lastly, his skills as an educator are even more impressive considering what he simultaneously endured during the past 5 years. Jacob faced yet another crossroads in Cadet history when 1) Colin McNutt left to join another corps, and 2) when The Cadets endured their 2018 hardships. Through all the turbulence, Jacob remained a consistent symbol of stability for The Cadets percussion, if not the entire drum corps. His unwavering loyalty to the organization stood out prominently when he became the only percussion staff member to stay with The Cadets during the staff change. Notably, the overwhelming majority of eligible percussion members decided to return to The Cadets that summer – the ultimate demonstration of Jacob’s personal impact on the members. Looking back on the past 15 years, I cannot think of one person more consistently dedicated to the well-being of the Cadets percussion than Jacob Gall.

Jacob’s dedication to this organization and embodiment of Cadet values is unparalleled. His positive influence on Cadets members and staff is deeply rooted, and those privileged to learn from him are forever changed for the better. There is no one more deserving of induction to the Cadets Hall of Fame than Jacob Gall. I respectfully support his nomination with the highest of recommendations and absolutely no reservations. Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information.

Sincerely,

Michael Galetta

Cadets Snareline 2016-2019

Cadets Battery Staff 2020-present

mgaletta99@gmail.com

508-954-2957