



VIVACE  
productions, inc. *Marching Arts*

# EDUCATION SUMMIT



PROGRAM GUIDE • DRAFT 06.18

July 20-23, 2026 | West Chester University

WELCOME

# Ideas. Evidence. Implementation.

A Summit built for directors, designers, educators, and program leaders who want learning to become action.

The Vivace Marching Arts Education Summit brings nationally recognized clinicians and practicing educators into the same learning community as the INCOMPARABLE Workshop. Attendees encounter powerful ideas, observe those ideas in live teaching, and leave with practical structures for applying them in their own programs.

## THE SUMMIT PROMISE

Every attendee should leave with at least one new idea, one observed teaching move, one meaningful professional connection, and one concrete action to implement before the first rehearsal of the fall season.

## THE FOUR-DAY ARC

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>LEADING WITH PURPOSE</b>	How directors inspire, communicate, teach, and turn vision into performance
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>BUILDING BELONGING</b>	How authenticity, inclusion, design, and engagement shape the student experience
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>SHAPING THE FUTURE</b>	How systems, leadership, mentorship, and imagination create what happens next
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>BEYOND THE BAND ROOM</b>	How advocacy, trust, copyright, travel, and booster partnerships sustain your program

Throughout the week, featured sessions, open labs, panels, facilitated lunch conversations, and evening field experiences work together to move from inspiration toward implementation.

## ATTENDEE FIELD GUIDE

# How to Use the Summit

Arrive with a real question. Observe with intention. Leave with a next step.

1

**ARRIVE WITH A QUESTION**

Name one challenge from your program that you want the day to help you address.

2

**LISTEN FOR TRANSFER**

Capture practices, phrases, systems, or rehearsal moves that could work in your setting.

3

**OBSERVE THE EVIDENCE**

In live labs, notice what changes in the task, the language, the environment, and the students.

4

**CONNECT WITH PEOPLE**

Use facilitated lunches and socials to find colleagues working through similar challenges.

5

**COMMIT TO ACTION**

Before leaving each day, identify one move you will make within 30 days.

**OPEN LAB KEY**

OPEN LAB sessions allow Summit attendees to observe live teaching with the INCOMPARABLE camp ensemble. Watch not only what the clinician says, but also what changes in student understanding, behavior, and performance.

SCHEDULE

# Summit at a Glance

Current draft schedule. Session locations and social details remain subject to change.

TIME	MONDAY • 7.20	TUESDAY • 7.21	WEDNESDAY • 7.22	THURSDAY • 7.23	BOOSTER SEMINAR
9:00-9:50	Registration / Check-In Welcome @ 9:45 Swope • Ware Recital Hall	OPEN LAB Creative Visual Lab Ian Flint Asplundh Green Room	From Overwhelmed to Organized Greg Drane Ware Recital Hall	Copyright and YOU! Matthew Alosi Swope 208	Seeking Harmony Chris Adams Ware Recital Hall
10:00-10:50	Leading from the Podium Bobby Lambert Ware Recital Hall	Authenticity Is Your Superpower Rachael Urquhart Ware Recital Hall	Boston Crusaders 2026 Thom Hannum Ware Recital Hall	Eyes On, Hands Off Chris Adams Swope 210	Travel-Savvy Boosters Charlie DiCarne Ware Recital Hall
11:00-11:50	Get Moving Susie Harloff Ware Recital Hall	Small Band, Big Sound 2.0 Chris DeVona Ware Recital Hall	Focusing Student Leadership Micki + Greg Ware Recital Hall	COMBINED PANEL Booster Club Q&A Ware Recital Hall	COMBINED PANEL Booster Club Q&A Ware Recital Hall
12:00	LUNCH Conversation + reflection	LUNCH Conversation + reflection	LUNCH Conversation + reflection	LUNCH Conversation + reflection	
2:00-2:50	Level-Up Your Leadership Team Adam Gumble Ware Recital Hall	No Bench in Band Micki Ferguson Ware Recital Hall	Women in the Marching Arts WBDI Roundtable Ware Recital Hall	DEMO PERFORMANCE 1:00 PM • Matlack Field	
3:00-3:50	Sound Design 2.0 Mike Bishop • Swope 208  Dressed to Perform Vaughan Sawdon • Swope 210	Frame the Field Carol Bieler • Ware Recital Hall  Director's Guide to Front Ensemble Sean Rode • Swope 208	OPEN LAB ENS Music Rehearsal Lab SMB Lawn  Passing the Baton Flint + Chrupcala • Ware Recital Hall		
4:00-4:50	Pulling Performance Out of Performers Susie Harloff Swope 320	Beyond the Field Micki + Greg Ware Recital Hall	DREAM BIG Todd Marcocci Ware Recital Hall		
5:00	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER		
7:00-8:30	OPEN LAB Simple Systems Matlack Field	OPEN LAB Building the Ensemble Matlack Field	OPEN LAB Cleaning the Production Matlack Field		
9:00	Social • TBD	Social • TBD	Social • TBD		

OPEN LAB = observe live teaching with the INCOMPARABLE camp ensemble. Thursday's 11:00 Booster Club Q&A is one combined session for directors and booster leaders.

MONDAY •

# LEADING WITH PURPOSE

9:00

## Registration / Check-In + Welcome

**Vivace Productions** | Education Summit | Swope Music Building / Ware Recital Hall

Check in at Swope. The formal welcome begins at 9:45 in Ware Recital Hall. Arrive with one program challenge you hope the Summit will help you address.

10:00

## FEATURED Leading from the Podium: Presence, Purpose, and Performance

**Bobby Lambert** | Wando High School | Ware Recital Hall

Leadership from the podium begins before the first gesture. Explore how presence, purpose, clarity, and conviction shape what performers understand, believe, and ultimately bring to the ensemble.

11:00

## Get Moving: Dance Techniques for Band Directors

**Susie Harloff** | Carolina Crown / Avon High School | Ware Recital Hall

Build a practical movement vocabulary that helps directors understand weight, timing, shape, and expressive intention - then translate those ideas into clearer teaching for marching performers.

## 12:00 • LUNCH CONVERSATIONS

Where did the morning sessions challenge the way you lead, communicate, or invite performance? Choose a hosted table, reflect on one morning takeaway, and connect with colleagues working through similar challenges.

2:00

## Level-Up Your Leadership Team

**Adam Gumble** | West Chester University / Vivace | Ware Recital Hall

Move student leaders beyond logistics. Explore structures for developing ownership, artistry, agency, communication, and responsibility in every rehearsal.

3:00

## Sound Design 2.0: Sound That Serves the Story

**Mike Bishop** | Mike Bishop Design | Swope 208

Use electronics, amplification, and sonic texture as storytelling tools. The focus is not simply what technology can do, but how it can clarify musical intent and strengthen the audience experience.

MONDAY •

# LEADING WITH PURPOSE

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3:00

## Dressed to Perform: Uniforms, Identity & the Marching Athlete

**Vaughan Sawdon** | G2 Performance | Swope 210

Examine how uniform choices shape identity, movement, comfort, durability, and the way performers see themselves as athletes and artists.

4:00

## Pulling Performance Out of Performers

**Susie Harloff** | Carolina Crown / Avon High School | Swope 320

Develop rehearsal language and experiences that help students move beyond correctness toward commitment, communication, and genuine performance.

6:30

## OPEN LAB Simple Systems: Installing Effective Rehearsal Techniques

**Full Camp Faculty** | INCOMPARABLE Workshop | Matlack Field

Observe a live field rehearsal focused on efficient systems for instruction, repetition, feedback, and retention.

9:00

## Summit Social

**Vivace Productions** | Location TBD

Continue the day's conversations with clinicians and colleagues in an informal setting.

TUESDAY •

# BUILDING BELONGING

9:00

## OPEN LAB Creative Visual Lab with Camp Winds

**Ian Flint** | Ian Flint Design / Dartmouth High School | Location TBD

Observe a live visual rehearsal focused on communication, performer understanding, and turning visual ideas into teachable experiences.

10:00

## Authenticity Is Your Superpower: Lessons from the Band Room

**Rachael Urquhart** | WBDI / Quakertown High School | Ware Recital Hall

Strong leadership does not require imitation. Explore how self-awareness, honesty, and consistency help directors lead with confidence and create spaces where students can do the same.

11:00

## Small Band, Big Sound 2.0

**Chris DeVona** | James Madison University | Ware Recital Hall

Practical rehearsal and scoring strategies that help smaller ensembles create clarity, resonance, balance, and musical presence without trying to sound like a different program.

## 12:00 • LUNCH CONVERSATIONS

What systems help students feel seen, responsible, and connected to the culture of the program? Choose a hosted table, reflect on one morning takeaway, and connect with colleagues working through similar challenges.

2:00

## No Bench in Band: Creating a Culture of Inclusivity

**Micki Ferguson** | Penn State University | Ware Recital Hall

Design rehearsals, roles, and communication systems so every student contributes meaningfully. Inclusion becomes tangible when no performer feels peripheral to the work.

3:00

## Frame the Field: Props, Floors & Visual Storytelling

**Carol Bieler** | Field & Floor FX | Ware Recital Hall

Explore how physical elements frame the production, guide audience attention, and support the story without overwhelming performers or becoming design for design's sake.

TUESDAY •

# BUILDING BELONGING

3:00

## The Director's Guide to the Front Ensemble

**Sean Rode** | West Chester University | Swope 208

A director-centered guide to front-ensemble priorities: sound responsibility, amplification, balance, timing, equipment, staffing, and the questions every director should know how to ask.

4:00

## Beyond the Field: Gameday Atmosphere Through Engagement

**Micki Ferguson + Greg Drane** | Penn State University | Ware Recital Hall

Use traditions, communication, student ownership, and intentional audience interaction to make gameday an extension of program culture.

6:30

## **OPEN LAB** Building the Ensemble: Teaching Sound, Timing, and Responsibility

**Full Camp Faculty** | INCOMPARABLE Workshop | Matlack Field

Observe how faculty establish ensemble sound, timing, listening, and shared responsibility in a live rehearsal.

9:00

## Summit Social

**Vivace Productions** | Location TBD

Continue the day's conversations with clinicians and colleagues in an informal setting.

WEDNESDAY •

# SHAPING THE FUTURE

9:00

## From Overwhelmed to Organized: Building the Operating System for Your Program

**Greg Drane** | Penn State University | Ware Recital Hall

Build repeatable systems for priorities, communication, delegation, planning, and follow-through so excellence does not depend on constant urgency.

10:00

## FEATURED An Inside Look at the Boston Crusaders' 2026 Program

**Thom Hannum** | Boston Crusaders | Ware Recital Hall

Go under the hood of a current world-class production. Examine concept, development, musical priorities, rehearsal choices, and the design decisions that bring the program to life.

11:00

## Focusing Student Leadership

**Micki Ferguson + Greg Drane** | Penn State University | Ware Recital Hall

Translate broad leadership ideals into specific student behaviors, rehearsal responsibilities, communication structures, and feedback loops.

### 12:00 • LUNCH CONVERSATIONS

Which structures could make your program more sustainable while developing the next generation of leaders? Choose a hosted table, reflect on one morning takeaway, and connect with colleagues working through similar challenges.

2:00

## PANEL Women in the Marching Arts: Roundtable

**Rachael Urquhart, Brooke Johnson + Marielle Chrupcala** | Ware Recital Hall

A candid conversation about leadership, access, mentorship, representation, professional pathways, and the conditions that help women thrive in the marching arts.

3:00

## OPEN LAB ENS Music Rehearsal Lab

**Gumble, Hannum, DeVona + Yozviak** | Summit Faculty | SMB Lawn

Watch master educators work with the live camp ensemble and compare how each diagnoses, communicates, prioritizes, and creates transfer.

WEDNESDAY •

# SHAPING THE FUTURE

3:00

## Passing the Baton: Mentorship That Builds the Next Director

Ian Flint + Marielle Chrupcala | Dartmouth Schools | Ware Recital Hall

A real-world conversation about professional transition, trust, support, identity, and the responsibilities of both the experienced mentor and the emerging director.

4:00

## DREAM BIG

Todd Marcocci | Under the Sun Productions | Ware Recital Hall

A future-facing invitation to imagine what the production, the performers, and the program can become - then connect big ideas to the decisions required to make them real.

6:30

## OPEN LAB Cleaning the Production: Diagnosing, Prioritizing, and Creating Transfer

Full Camp Faculty | INCOMPARABLE Workshop | Matlack Field

Observe a later-stage rehearsal focused on setting priorities, integrating responsibilities, and helping performers transfer learning across repetitions.

9:00

## Summit Social

Vivace Productions | Location TBD

Continue the day's conversations with clinicians and colleagues in an informal setting.

THURSDAY •

# BEYOND THE BAND ROOM

9:00

## Copyright and YOU!

**Matthew Alosi** | J.W. Pepper | Swope 208

A practical guide to permissions, arranging, licensing, recordings, digital use, and the copyright questions marching programs encounter most often.

9:00

## BOOSTER SEMINAR Seeking Harmony: Navigating District Constraints

**Chris Adams** | 1st Light Consulting | Ware Recital Hall

Identify the interests, pressures, and communication patterns that shape district decisions - then build collaborative strategies that move the program forward without unnecessary conflict.

10:00

## Eyes On, Hands Off: Building Trust

**Chris Adams** | 1st Light Consulting | Swope 210

Explore how clear roles, healthy boundaries, and consistent communication allow directors, administrators, and support organizations to build trust without micromanaging one another.

10:00

## BOOSTER SEMINAR Travel-Savvy Boosters: Tools, Tips & Lessons from the Road

**Charlie DiCarne** | Peak Group Travel | Ware Recital Hall

Plan safer, smoother, and more successful travel through realistic budgeting, communication, timelines, expectations, and lessons learned from complex group travel.

11:00

## COMBINED PANEL Booster Club Q&A

**Charlie DiCarne, Chris Adams + John Villella** | Summit Faculty | Ware Recital Hall

Directors and booster leaders bring real questions into one shared conversation about roles, governance, communication, finance, travel, advocacy, and partnership.

## 12:00 • LUNCH CONVERSATIONS

What partnership, policy, or communication move would most strengthen the systems surrounding your program? Choose a hosted table, reflect on one morning takeaway, and connect with colleagues working through similar challenges.

1:00

## DEMONSTRATION INCOMPARABLE Workshop Demonstration

**Workshop Participants + Faculty** | INCOMPARABLE Workshop | Matlack Field

See the principles of the Summit come to life as student participants demonstrate the musical, visual, and leadership growth developed throughout the week.

## APPLIED LEARNING

# Live Lab Observation Guide

Watch for what changes in the students, the task, and the environment.

1

**IDENTIFY**

Of everything the clinician *could* have fixed, what did they choose first - was it a mistake (isolated) or a misunderstanding (widespread)?

2

**DIAGNOSE**

Did they Isolate to Educate (pull one thing out to teach it clean) or try to fix the whole picture at once? What did they leave alone on purpose?

3

**ADAPT**

Watch the teach itself: where did you hear Say It, See It, Sample It, Secure It? What got relabeled, re-demoed, or re-paced when the first rep didn't land?

4

**RESPOND**

Connection before Correction - what did the clinician do *before* the fix that made the room willing to take it? How did the performers answer good teaching?

5

**TRANSFER**

Did they stop after one good rep, or go 1x-2x-3x until it was a pattern? Did the learning survive the next rep, and how did they hand responsibility back to the students?

6

**APPLY**

What's the 1% version of this move for your own program - smaller, younger, fewer staff? One thing you'd borrow Monday.

**REFLECTION**

Leave with three: one teaching move worth borrowing, one question worth asking your own students, and one adaptation your group requires. Keep Going!!!!

## IMPLEMENTATION

# My 30-Day Summit Plan

One idea becomes valuable only when it changes what students experience.

**THE CHALLENGE** • What problem in my program am I trying to address?

**THE INSIGHT** • What idea, phrase, process, or teaching move changed my thinking?

**THE EVIDENCE** • What did I observe that made this idea credible?

**THE FIRST MOVE** • What will I do within the next seven days?

**THE PEOPLE** • Who needs to understand, support, or participate in the change?

**THE MEASURE** • What will students or staff do differently if this is working?

**THE CHECK-IN** • When will I review progress and make the next adjustment?

**LEAVE WITH A MOVE**

Before you leave West Chester, choose one specific action that can be completed before your first rehearsal of the fall season.