



The Drum Corps Associates Individual and Ensemble competition, or DCA's biggest street party as many call it, was held in downtown Rochester before a very large group of drum corps fanatics. I am always impressed by the large number of fellow corps members who travel from venue to venue to cheer on their friends.

The largest contingents came from the United Kingdom's **Kidsgrove Scouts** and the **Gouvernaires** from Minnesota. The Chorus from the **Gouvernaires** recorded a perfect score of 100, while **Conor Jones** (right, Chris Maher) from the **Kidsgrove Scouts** nailed a perfect 100 in Visual Combo and won a second gold medal in Visual Duet with **Caitlin Jones** (right, Chris Maher).

I have to give much credit to **Bob Hagelberger** from **Mighty St. Joe's** who every year participates in rifle visual and this year won a gold medal. I was very happy to see the large amount of entrees in the color guard category as this year's total was the largest in many years.

In the percussion events, held outside on Main Street, the **Saints Brigade** was a double winner in the Brass Choir and Battery Ensemble categories. The **Hit Men Brass Band** were huge hits in the Brass Ensemble category.

You can find complete results of the I&E and stadium competitions by going to

www.dcacorps.org and selecting "2015 scores" in the menu bar.

On to the grand ballroom for the icing on the cake, as seven groups battled it out to become the 2015 Mini-corps Champion. The defending World Champion honor guard from the **White Sabers**, under the direction of Captain Gary Richardson, presented the colors while the National Anthems of Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States were played. The voice of DCA, Fran Haring, served as the emcee for the



evening and did his usual outstanding job keeping fans involved with the show. And the PA system was significantly improved over previous years at this venue!

Indianapolis **Star United** (above, Chris Maher) successfully defended their championship with a moving drill and a classical music book that rocked the house. Becky Sadelmiere guided her corps as the horn line had a very deep sound, especially in their closing number, *Festive Overture*, with rotating drill forms. Great balance between the percussion and brass led to a big finish to the front and another mini-corps title.



In the runner-up spot was the Sacramento, CA, **Freelancers**, (right, Chris Maher) each year bringing a quality product to this event and this year proved to be their strongest unit yet. Performing a Spanish musical book, the corps uses a moving drill with several soloists who were very good. The drum set player gave the show a big lift with a big ending as fans gave the group a large standing ovation. They were conducted by former Chicago Royal Airs drum major Paul Zimny.



The fans voted the **Ghost Riders** (below, Chris Maher) their favorites for the night, with conductor Donnie Allen leading the way. This group has participated in every mini-corps event since the competition began. The number *Ghost Riders* featured a trumpet duet with Western design panels placed on the stage behind the corps. The closing number, *The William Tell Overture*, was strong as they pushed to the front to a long standing ovation from the sizeable audience.



Minne Brass (right, Chris Maher) was smaller this year in numbers, but still entertained fans with their jazz musical show. Great solo moments were noted as this unit is always a force to be dealt with.

In their first year of mini-corps competition, the **Bridgemen** (below, Chris Maher) saluted New York City



with their *I Love Love New York* intro. *Birdland* was a hit with the crowd while a flying chicken was thrown from backstage in the closing number of *The William Tell Overture*. To conclude

their entertaining show, the Bridgemen fell down on the stage, reminding us of their days-gone-by ending move.

Brigs Juice (right, Chris Maher) also was making their debut tonight as they opened with *Channel One Suite* under the leadership of long-time Drum Major Trevor Stoyer. *Harlem*





Nocturne

featured a strong trumpet section with an excellent trumpet soloist. A standing ovation was given at the end of their performance.

Complete with frisbees, airplane wings, bats and balls, and jump ropes, the **Rocketeers** (left, Chris Maher) from Huntsville, AL, presented a cartoon music book. A trumpet duet took turns playing each other's horn with one hand which was a highly effective move that brought a loud response from the audience. This was a highly entertaining show to watch and enjoy.

Steel City Ambassadors from Pittsburgh, PA, (above right, Chris Maher) brought a diverse musical book with them and many different horns visuals built into their program. The third number was comical and upbeat which was very easy to follow.

All-in-all, the entire night ran smoothly, with almost all events running on or ahead of time. The mini-corps contest, in fact, finished 12 minutes ahead! Kudos to Paul Chaffee and his team. Please go to the DCA web site for all the scores for the event as well as the placements. Dick Fishette and his staff are to be thanked for a great night of fun, entertainment and competition.

Displayed are additional photographic highlights by Chris Maher from the various events in downtown Rochester that made the I&E event so successful for DCA.

