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To the Directors of Tournament of Bands/
Tournament Indoor Association–Participating Schools
Spring, 2018

Dear Friends:

This month, we celebrate "National Marching Music Day," which provides us with the opportunity to look back on the past 27 seasons of participation in Drum Corps International activities and the hundreds of music education professionals we've had the honor of meeting during that time. We've also been reflecting on the more than 3,000 talented and passionate students who have passed through our ranks so far, realizing more than ever that their unique journeys are bound in a singular common pursuit and shared interest: achievement of their personal best and ongoing self-discovery through engagement in the marching arts.

We're writing to you today to perhaps "re-introduce" our program to our old friends and to humbly introduce ourselves for the first time to those of you we've yet to have the pleasure of meeting.

Since our founding in 1990, we've worked hard to forge enduring partnerships with remarkable educators like you – and the talented teams of designers and instructors you direct. We're hoping that the past three decades have been a "warm up act" for expanded opportunities for even greater collaboration on the road ahead. It is our intent to do more to better serve the music education community in our region through a number of new initiatives and expanded partnership opportunities. You'll be hearing more about some of these initiatives very soon.

Although The Jersey Surf has now grown to attract interested and highly motivated students into its ranks from throughout the country and around the world, the member-schools of TOB/TIA have been the backbone of our program since the very beginning. The core values of your programs along with the programs of "Tournament" and the Jersey Surf are wonderfully aligned: we are all committed to providing outstanding opportunities to exceptional young people.

Once the school year ends, we'll be "hitting the road" for our 10,000 mile journey on the 2018 DCI Tour. Although our audition process began in November, we have a few remaining positions we need to fill for this summer – and we want to offer these positions exclusively to TOB/TIA students, prior to engaging in a national recruitment campaign. **We are focused on reestablishing our membership base closer to home. To this end, we are waiving all audition and video audition fees for interested students from Tournament member-schools.**

A recent expansion of DCI membership limit rules and a reconfiguration of our ensemble have resulted in the following openings for the '18 Surf season: • Color Guard Performers (10) • Tuba (4) • Baritone/Euphonium (3) • Trumpet [Lead] (1)

Please direct your interested students to complete a request for membership information at our website: **jerseysurf.org/membership**. By adding the name of your school and "TOB" in the "Other relevant experience" area at the end of the applicant form, they will receive an immediate waiver of audition fees. We will follow up with them within 24 hours to discuss next steps in the process.

Thanks in advance for your assistance and support. We are very grateful for all that you do as "unsung heroes" and are looking forward to supplementing the outstanding experience your students are receiving through your program with a summer of World Class instruction and all of the remarkable attributes of participating in the DCI summer tour.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or should you require any additional information. We are looking forward to continuing our mission of helping to shape tomorrow's leaders through the pursuit of excellence; and the unique opportunities afforded through participation in the marching arts.

Best wishes for continued success and a safe and healthy conclusion to the school year,

Bob Jacobs, Executive Director & CEO
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