

Double Award Scoop for Slippery Rock University Marching Pride St. Patrick's Festival Parade 2019, Dublin, Ireland!

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Slippery Rock University Marching Pride from Pennsylvania, USA have scooped the **Best Overall Band Award** at the St. Patrick's Festival Parade, Dublin, Ireland, yesterday Sunday March 17th. The US band were also awarded **Best Adult Band** for their showing at this year's Festival Parade. It was the Band's very first time to march outside of the USA and the talented performers and their Director Dr Jonathan Helmick were delighted to receive news of their selection as marching champions.

Speaking of the Award, **Dr Joseph Ryan, Chair of the Marching Band International Adjudication Panel** said *"The panel was highly complementary of the standard of the bands competing in this year's National St. Patrick's Festival Parade in Dublin. Slippery Rock University Marching Pride took the honours as the Overall Best Band of the Festival Parade and also collected the award as Best Adult Band."* Since 1919, the Slippery Rock University Marching Pride has been bringing exciting parade performances and halftime shows to local fans in the USA, appearing at national venues and parades, such as the Pontiac Silver Dome and twice at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. The bands are marked on the criteria of music, marching and overall presentation.

In the Sectional Awards, **Charlotte Catholic High School from North Carolina took Best Youth Band** while closer to home, **Clondalkin Youth Band were awarded Best Community Band**, with a special commendation recognising the considerable advancements made by this ensemble in recent years. The adjudication panel also awarded **High Commendations to Wauwatosa East Red Raider Marching Band** from Wisconsin and **Palm Springs High, Spirit of the Sands Travel Band** from California, for their admirable performances at the Parade.

The esteemed panel of international adjudicators led by Chair, **Dr Joseph Ryan** are **Cynthia Scheid**, Director of Bands at Youngsville High School in Youngsville, Pennsylvania; **James Standland**, DMA, Assistant Director of Bands, The University of Southern Mississippi; **Deborah Bradley**, Azalea Winds Classic, Community Band of South Georgia and **Lt. Col. Peeter Saan**, Chief Conductor of the Estonian Defence Forces. Speaking on behalf of the Panel, Dr Ryan added *"This was a fine year for bands within the competitive element of the annual St Patrick's Festival Parade. We had University, High School, and Community bands who delivered a lively and varied repertoire for the large and receptive crowds. It is marvellous to host bands from around the world who travel to add to the celebration of our national day."*

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