



The Green Machine Ensembles Distinguished Alumni Award

Jeremy Freer
MM '10

Jeremy Freer, MM '10, teaches one of the world's greatest bands, the Green Machine, and writes most of their music (more than 100 arrangements). He regularly plays guitar and provides vocals to support George Mason University events. His current passion project is collaborating with the Green Machine staff to field and document a parade band, which preserves the spirit and inclusivity of the pep band. He has also been a versatile professor, teaching courses for the Dewberry Family School of Music. He spends his personal time with his wife and daughter, hiking and playing board games, pickleball, and Dungeons & Dragons.

In 8th grade, Freer had an earth science teacher (shoutout, Mr. White!) who inspired him to want to teach. Once in high school, he found band and the shared purpose and community it provided.

He had teaching opportunities, mostly at elementary school bands in Fairfax County. He taught some marching bands as a clinician (where he met and befriended a not-yet-Dr. Mike Nickens) and eventually tried his hand at writing show music and drill.

Freer then joined the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, mainly because he was grateful for the opportunities and wanted to serve if he was ever needed, which he was. He served in Iraq.

He eventually returned to his now-friend Nickens—otherwise known as Doc Nix—and began to teach music at George Mason with the pep band. The moral is: If you think you need to appear perfect to end up in the job of your dreams, think again.