

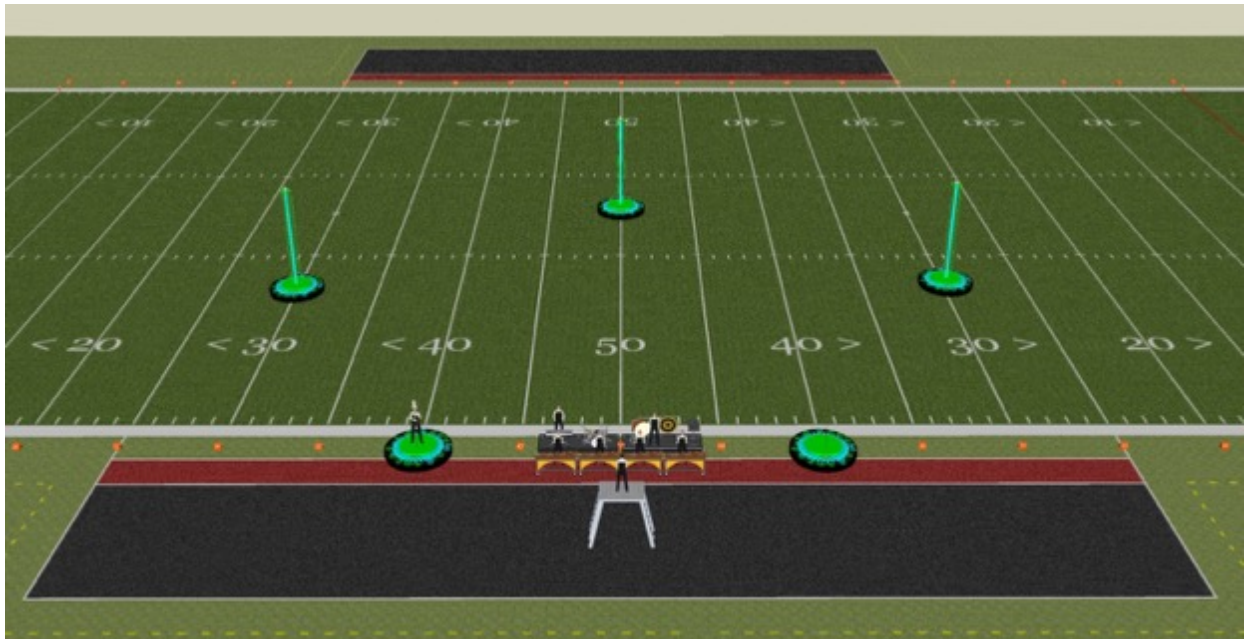
A.I.

Fannin Musical Productions

A.I.—short for Artificial Intelligence—is a contemporary program which depicts the awakening of a machine intelligence which spreads throughout the ensemble as the show progresses. With a concept ripped from the headlines of the perhaps not-so-distant future, and visual cues referencing a wide-variety of pop culture science fiction, *A.I.* is a cutting edge, highly entertaining program which your students will love performing.

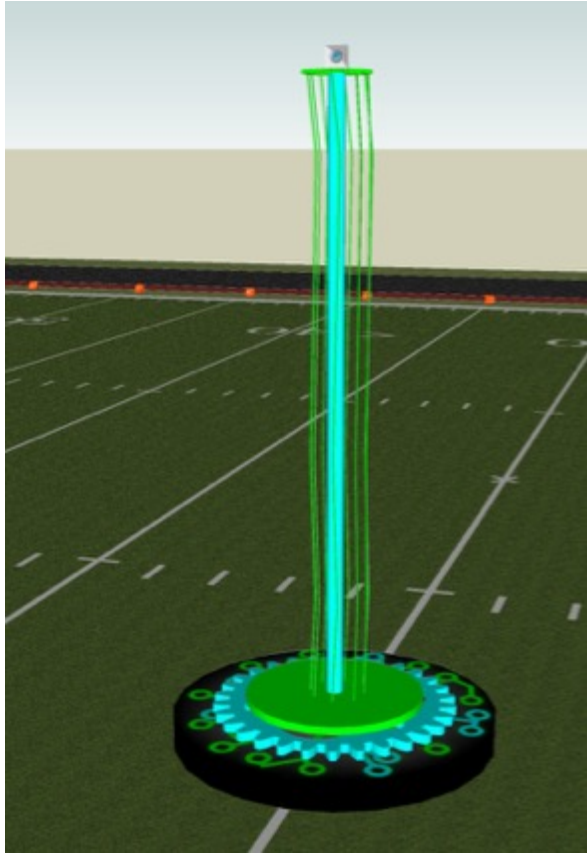
Originally performed by the Liberty Hill High School Band, Liberty Hill, TX.

Set Design & Props



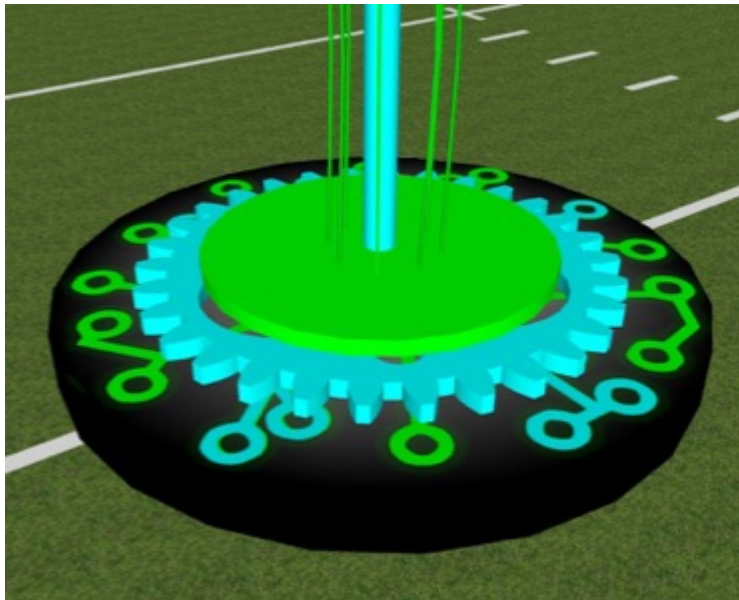
A.I. makes use of several props to convey its concept. The eye-catching use of lime green and cyan blue immediately evokes a technological future, and is carried through to the color guard costuming and flag silks.

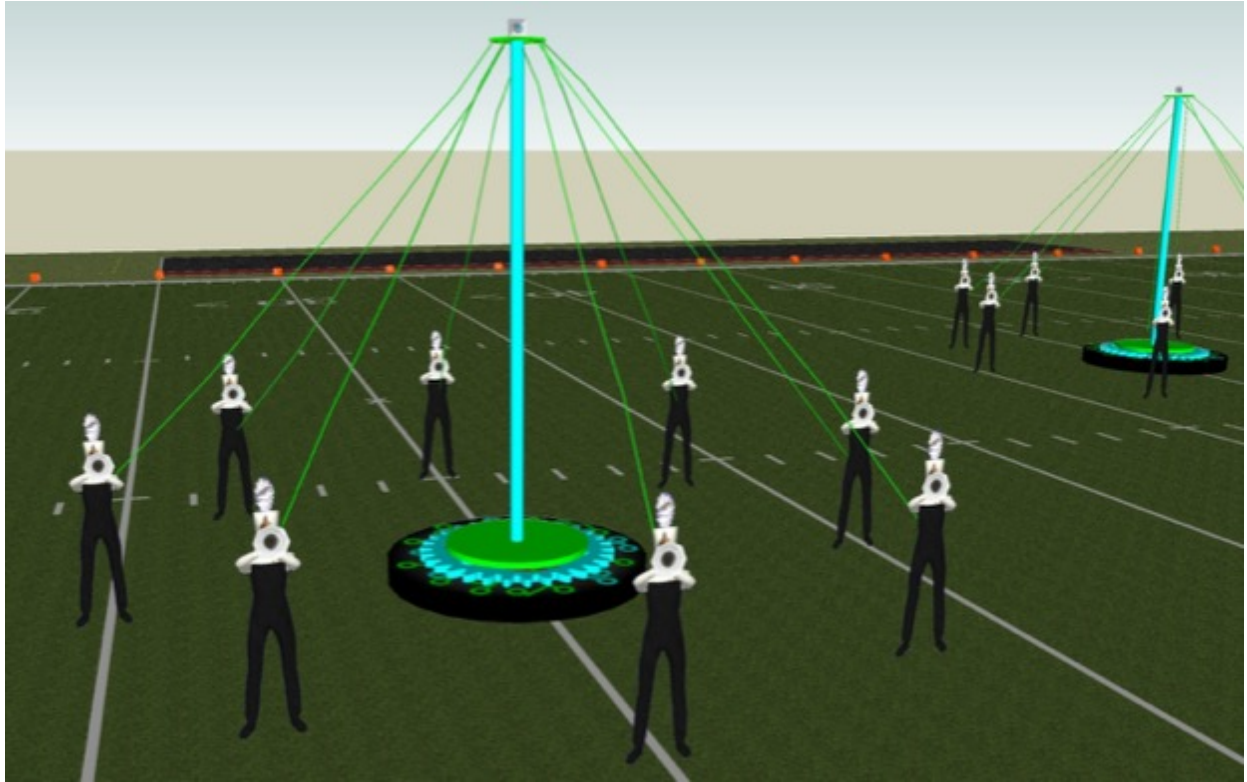




The largest props are three 'charging stations' which combine a circular stage below with an upright pole from which dangle 8 elastic cords, suggestive of wires. Throughout the course of the show, various performers are 'plugged in' by attaching a hook hidden on their uniform to a cord.

The bases themselves contain strips of LEDs between their layers, and on the top of the pole, another bright LED helps to convey the idea of 'charging' or 'plugging in' when lit.





Of very similar construction, but without the pole, two soloist stages flank the pit. This staging allows for hardwiring of the microphones necessary for the duet which serves as a connecting thread musically throughout this program.



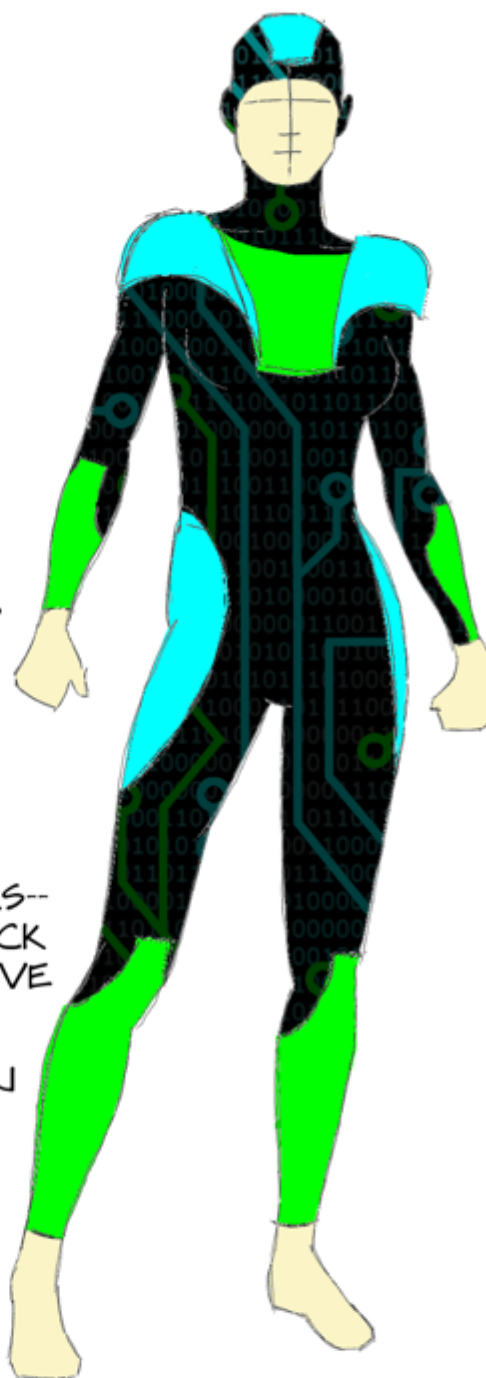
A.I: THE GREAT AWAKENING COLOR GUARD CONCEPT

ONE PIECE BODYSUIT
WITH OPTIONAL HOOD

OVER ALL MOOD CONNECTS
TO THEME, REFERENCES
SEVERAL POP CULTURE
ICONS OF TECHNOLOGY,
ROBOTS

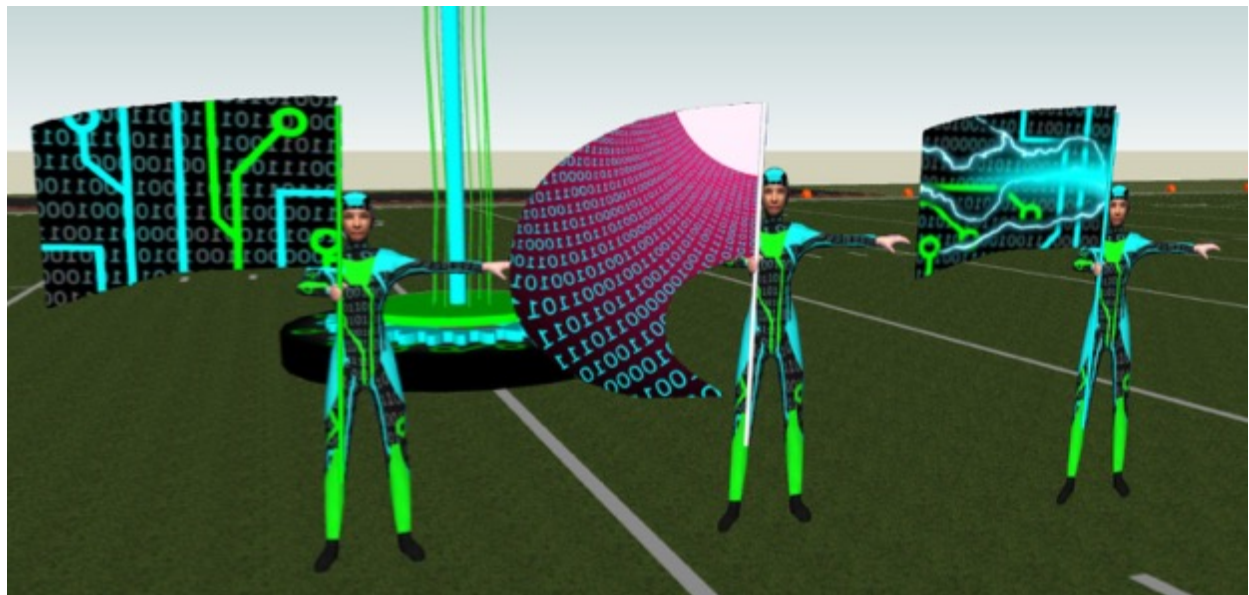
CUSTOM, DIGITAL PRINT
FABRIC CONNECTS TO SILKS--
COULD ALSO BE SIMPLE BLACK
IF PRINT IS COST PROHIBITIVE

LIME & CYAN ACCENTS ON
ARMS & LEGS CONNECT
TO PROP & SILK DESIGN





The costuming and flags for A.I. establish a consistent, unified design language of color and pattern. The imagery is lifted from several technological reference points, including circuitry and binary code. The costume concept is suggested by several pop culture representations of computing and artificial intelligence. Costuming and flags available through [Band Shoppe](https://www.bandshoppe.com/).



Opener Effects

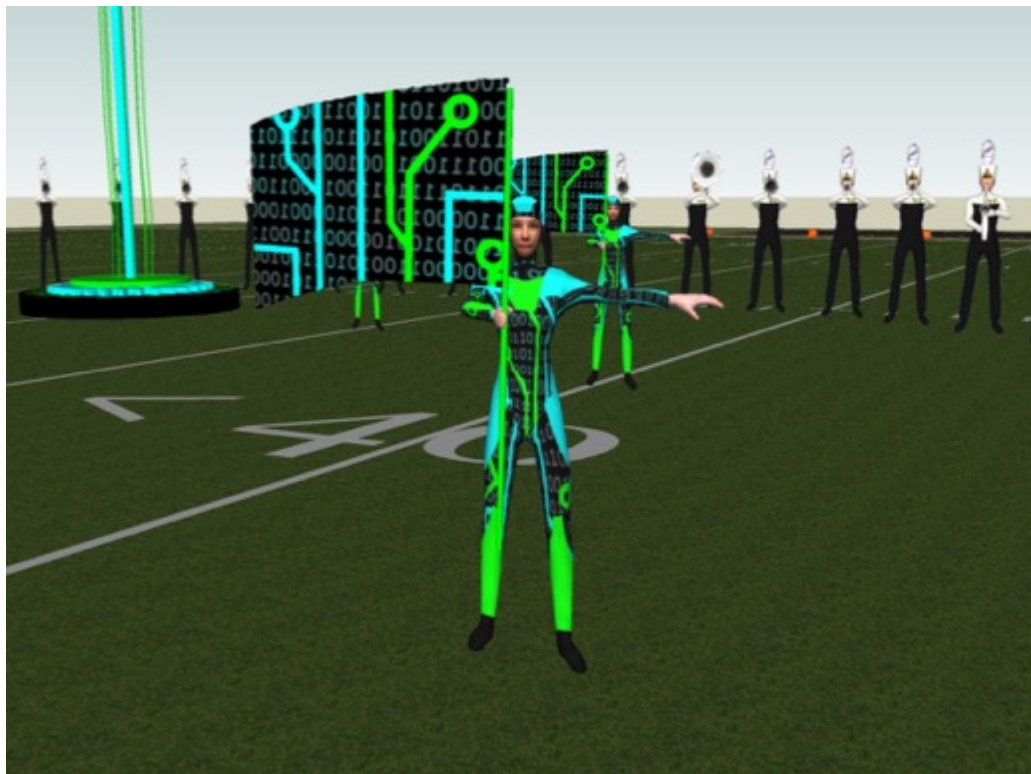


AI opens with the entire ensemble in pods around the 'charging station' props. Some [or all, depending on the size of your auxiliary] guard members are on the raised stages themselves 'plugged in.'





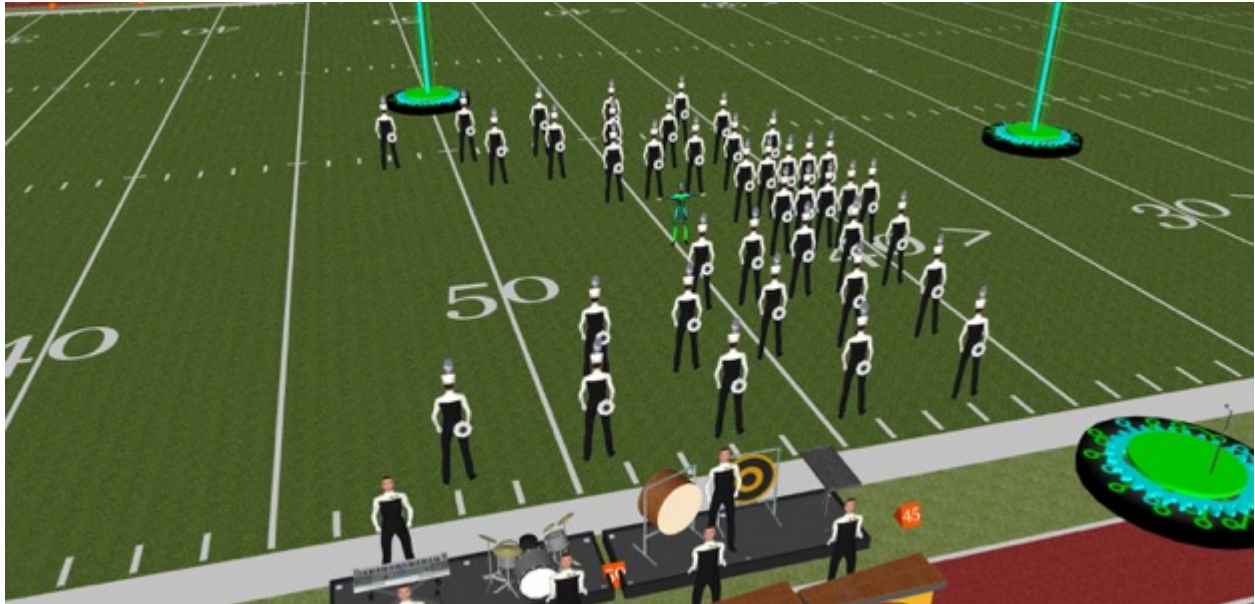
As the first melodic ideas enter in the pit percussion, the hornline drill expands to draw the eye to the charging stations—which light while the guard performs character driven, robotic bodywork within each body. From here, the drill opens up to allow the now ‘fully charged’ color guard to emerge, introducing the Opener silk. Right away, A.I. fully integrates music, costume, silks, props, drill, and sound effects to leave no doubt in the viewers mind as to the concept of the program.





The entire guard has translated onto silk by the first arrival point to complete the impactful opening statement.

After the arrival point, the drill condenses to a vertical block form which is 'bent' by a featured guard performer. Accompanied by cleverly written pit percussion parts, the form rebounds to 'push' the guard member backwards.





The last several phrases of the opening movement are musically driven, featuring first a muted trumpet segment staged on the 'charging' station for a metallic, machine-like timbre appropriate to theme.

...and then, a virtuostic duet from the microphone stations flanking the pit. Originally written for—and sketched here as—a clarinet duet, allow our writers to customize this segment to feature your two best players.

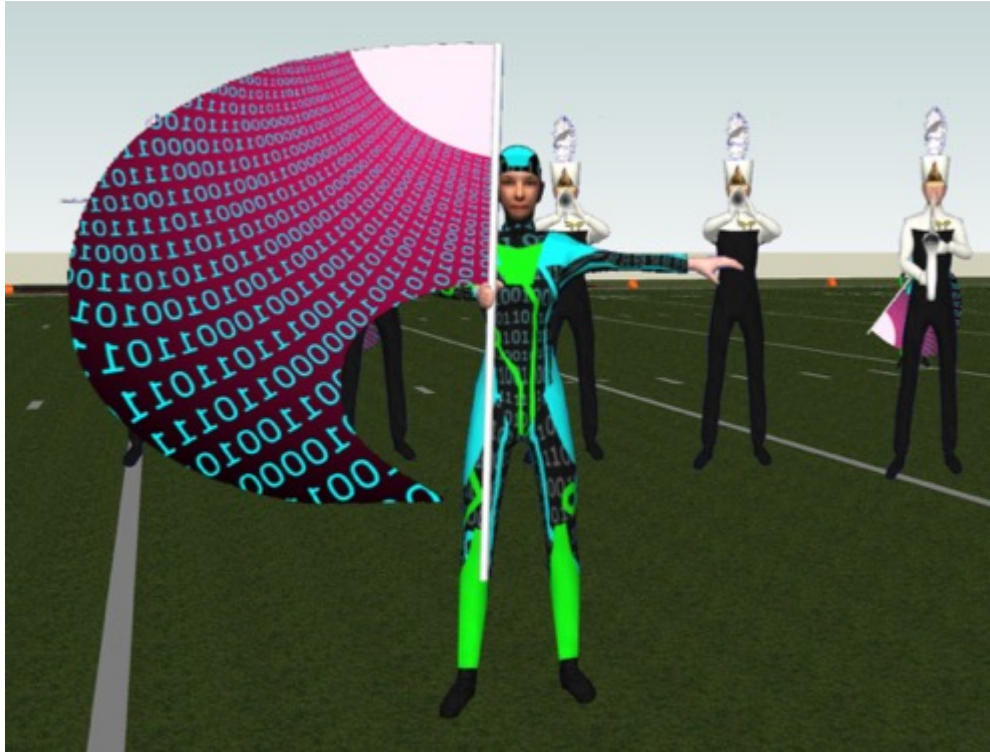


Ballad Effects



The ballad of A.I. cleverly portrays the contrast between the mechanical and the emotional by setting up a musical dialogue between a lyrical soloist—sketched here as a clarinet—and a repeated, ostinato pattern in the high brass.

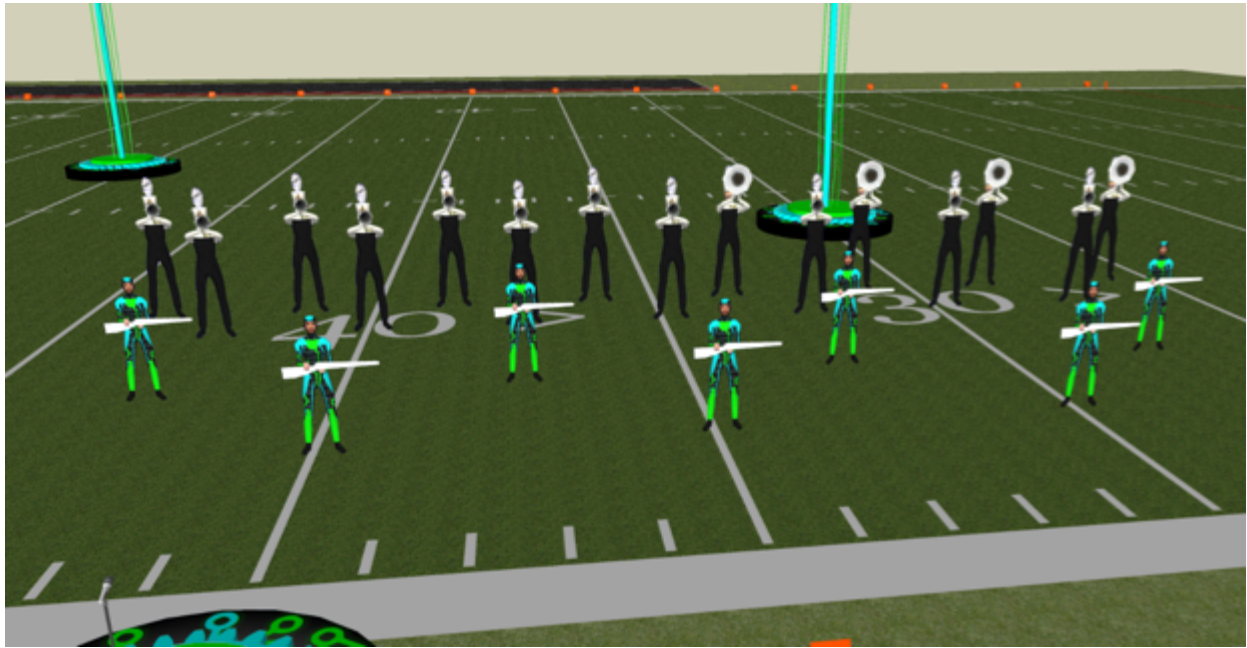




Meanwhile, the color guard transitions to a new silk which introduces a warmer color to reflect the increased emotion in the musical score. Eventually, the two musical themes intertwine to build to a major musical statement and emotional arrival point of the program.



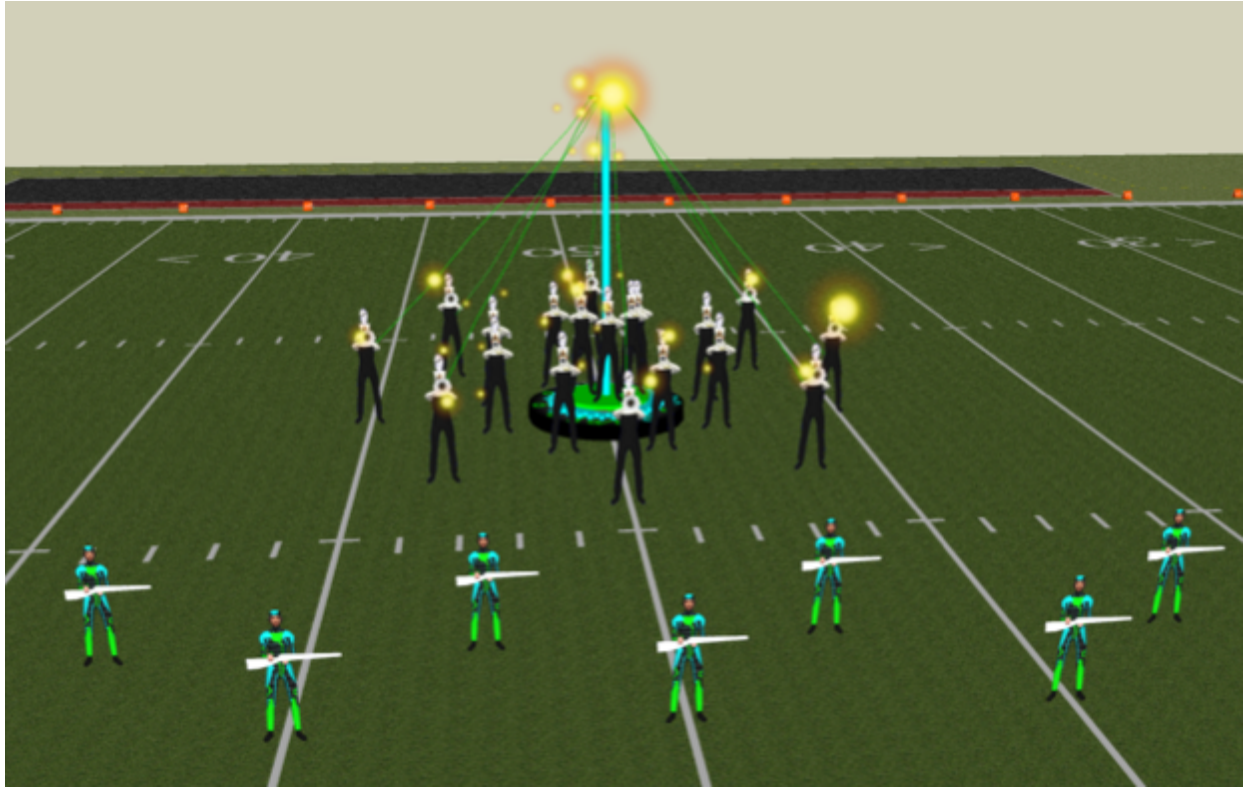
Closer Effects



After the emotional release of the ballad, the Closer begins with a mechanistic, low brass groove. If desired, this segment of the program is the perfect spot for the use of weapons. Meanwhile, the rest of the ensemble restages around the charging stations, their ‘batteries drained’ by the earlier segments.

Then, each section of the ensemble ‘plugs in’ to recharge around the props—symbolized visually by the lights coming on at that prop, and musically by the players taking a featured role for a phrase. To further drive the effect upward, small LED lights hidden on the players uniforms could also be lit before they enter. First, the woodwinds...





...then the high brass...

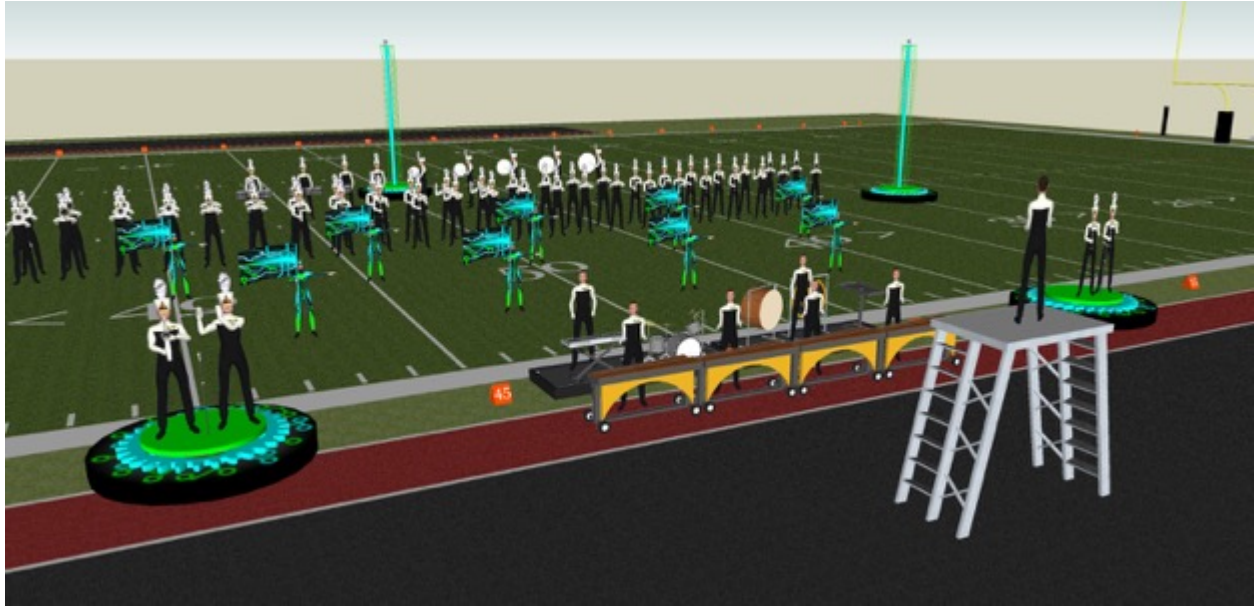
...and finally, the low brass.





As each section is introduced, the musical energy builds to an almost frenetic pace—visually reflected by the guard's introduction of the Closer silk. Finally, the three segments are all playing together while the guard occupies center stage in one of the biggest, most impactful set pieces of the show.





The musical energy doesn't lift a bit as the focus shifts to a pair of dueling duets at the microphone stages while the rest of the ensemble performs a robotic, full-ensemble body choreography moment.

Finally, several phrases of tutti musical development drives the program to its satisfying, exciting conclusion—while the flashing props demonstrate that the machine intelligence has fully awakened.



Fin.

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