

TRAINING AND SCORING FOR MUSICAL SUCCESS



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OBJECTIVES

- **Investigate wind and percussion fundamental training techniques to reinforce pedagogy.**
- **Compare scoring techniques for marching bands, to establish successful practices for bands, regardless of size.**
- **Discuss the most common adjudicator comments related to percussion and ways to avoid these issues.**
- **Advance beyond accompanying/interpreting the wind score/music and move toward developing/enhancing the wind score/music.**



GETTING STARTED...

Does my band (and my feeder program)...

- Have an established training regimen?:
 - **Posture** (*A defined visual posture for both seated and standing positions*)
 - *Step-outs*: Creating the instrument/body/phrasing/drill connection, even in the arc!
 - **Breathing** (*Established, regimented exercises to bolster diaphragmatic breathing*)
 - **Embouchure** (*An understanding of, and remediation methods to check and fix as needed*)
 - **Hand Position** (*and ways to build technique with a healthy hand position*)
 - **Articulation** (*and solutions to help solve...*)
 - **Grip and Stroke** (*variations and techniques*)

GETTING STARTED...

Does my band (and my feeder program)...

- Build both ensemble and individual technique?
 - **Tone** (*Starts with the breath!*)
 - **Intonation** (*Starts with a good tone, but building aural skills is essential...*)
 - **Musicality** (*Phrasing, arsis-thesis, understanding of stylistic differences, understanding of contrasts in emotional content, AUTHENTICITY*)

CUSTOM VS. “CANNED”

CUSTOM ARRANGEMENT

- **Allows for flexibility for the ensemble.**
 - Instrumentation
 - Technique
 - Harmonic abilities
- **\$\$\$**
 - Legal fees (Trésona)
 - Work-for-Hire Agreements

“CANNED” ARRANGEMENT

- **“One size fits all” for every ensemble.**
 - Director/staff need to adapt parts/score to meet needs.
 - Often too easy or too hard for ensembles/ particular choirs of ensembles.
- **\$**
 - Because these are done en masse, they are more cost effective for bands with small budgets.

CUSTOM SCORING FOR SMALL BAND



General Principles

- **Less is more.** Think fewer individual parts (2–3, plus percussion at maximum).
 - Double the LB parts in octaves (then teach them to play in tone and in tune, resulting in a “beefy” low sound)
 - Battery and Front Ensemble VS Battery or Front Ensemble
- **Use unisons, and chords without extensive color tones.** Because there are fewer players, minimize the density of chords to include the most important tones within the chord:
 - Guide tones (3 & 7)
 - (*possibly*) ONE color tone



CUSTOM SCORING FOR LARGE BAND



General Principles

- **More players=more parts.** You can be more dense in your orchestration, so long as your players can handle the demand (Have you trained them to handle the musical/harmonic demands?).
- **Use caution in low brass.** In the bass clef staff, to maximize clarity and avoid “clutter,” it is best to spread notes by at least a fifth from the bottom of the range to top space G.
- **Take care in overwriting for percussion.** Let the music breathe by using space.

ADAPTING “CANNED” PARTS...

General Principles

- **Be sure that the piece will challenge your students without overwhelming them.** Use the resources available to you (.mp3's, YouTube, etc.)
- **Select repertoire that fits with your band's training.** Don't pick something that demands staggered breaths if you only have one trumpet player. Use the sheets to guide you toward how your band best meets these goals.
- **Pick compositions with percussion/wind parts that meet your needs.** According to US Copyright Law, if you change/add percussion parts, you need to obtain a custom arrangement license (meaning that you're back to \$\$\$).

TOP 15 PERCUSSION COMMENTS BY MUSIC JUDGES

- 1. Bass drums are overbalancing the winds.**
- 2. Lack of clarity within accent and tap passages.**
- 3. Pit is playing ahead of the band.**
- 4. Inconsistent approach to the double stroke.**
- 5. Problems with attacks.**
- 6. Small percussion not really being effectively used.**
- 7. Book having problems fitting with the music.**
- 8. Too much emphasis on visual.**
- 9. Problems with balance within the percussion section.**
- 10. Lack of impact from the percussion in the musical book.**
- 11. Drill causing hearing/timing issues.**
- 12. Inconsistent sticking in battery.**
- 13. Lack of definition between flams and double stops.**
- 14. Pit needs to make more contribution to the musical ensemble**
- 15. Battery not listening back when in front.**

DRUMLINE WEB MATERIALS

Full Drum Line Technique

UCM DRUMLINE TECHNIQUE

https://www.ucmo.edu/music/bands/media/drumline_audio_parts/UCM%20DL%20Handbook%202012.pdf

Iowa State Drumline Technique Book

<http://www.music.iastate.edu/org/drumline/resources/iowa%20State%20Drumline%20Technique%20Book.pdf>

ZILDJIAN MARCHING BAND & DRUM CORPS LESSONS

<http://zildjian.com/Education/Lessons/Marching>

Championship Technique for Marching Percussion by James Campbell

<https://www.rowloff.com/ScoreSamples/1004.pdf>

The University of Texas at San Antonio Marching Percussion Handbook

http://utsarhythm.org/utsarhythm.org/Home/Archive_files/UTSA%20Marching%20Percussion%20Handbook.pdf

University of Wyoming Drumline Handbook

http://www.uwyo.edu/marchingband/_files/docs/drumline_handbook.pdf

Marching Percussion Survival Guide by Jim Bailey

http://evansdrumheads.com/upload/EVBR_MPSG07_Marching_Percussion_Survival_Guide_12562.pdf

Have No Fear!! A Band Director's Guide to Marching Percussion

<http://www.bretkuhnmusic.com/images/marchingfundamentals.pdf>

East Carolina University Marching Pirates Drumline 2015 2016 Technique Handbook

<http://marchingpirates.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Drumline-Technique-Handbook-2015.pdf>

Sacred Heart University Marching Percussion Technique & Exercise Packet

https://www.sacredheart.edu/media/sacredheart/performingarts/shubandchoir/3339_perc_packet.pdf

CHAMPIONSHIP CONCEPTS for Marching Percussion (Student Workbook) BYTHOM HANNUM

<http://www.dasd.k12.pa.us/cms/lib3/PA01000215/Centricity/Domain/144/HannumChampMarchPerc.pdf>

A Few Helpful Hints for Improving Your Marching Percussion Program

<http://www2.uncp.edu/music/areas/percussion/images/Clinic%20Handout.pdf>

Writing and Arranging for Marching Percussion in the 21st Century

http://www.olivermolina.com/OliverMolina/Text_files/1307-1.10-15.pdf

DRUMLINE WEB MATERIALS

Snare Drum Technique

Traditional Grip - How to Drum with Traditional Grip

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJwoUbeo55Q>

Snare drum technique - a baseline approach to playing the snare drum

<http://www.snarescience.com/articles/snare-technique.html>

Marching Snare Technique Guide and Exercise Packet

<http://www.epchsbands.org/wp-content/audio/2011/03/Marching-Snare-Guide.pdf>

MARCHING SNARE DRUM - Mighty Sailor Band

<http://mightsailorband.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=cPCK0SpTVAE%3D&tabid=137&mid=567>

How to Tune Marching Snare Drum Guts

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4B7ky3DL6M>

How to Change a Marching Snare Drum Head

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJ-QKFnr2c>

How to Change the Snare Side Drumhead of a Marching Snare Drum

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yptDW9RROzk>

Tenor Drum Technique

Marching Tenor Technique - Mighty Sailor Band

http://mightsailorband.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=f2CMjnP_bdA%3D&tabid=137&mid=567

Marching Tenor Technique Guide And Exercise Packet

<http://www.epchsbands.org/wp-content/audio/2011/03/Marching-Tenor-Guide.pdf>

Marching Tenor Crossover Technique - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kfzu1dGt7YM>

Tenor Drum Playing Zones - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKBfWaxbgLM>

How to Change a Marching Tenor Drum Head

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=544-FzhA2QM>

Chop Building Tenor Exercise with Matt Penland

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBxH6zJjJnU>

DRUMLINE WEB MATERIALS

Bass Drum Technique

Marching Bass Drum Technique Guide and Exercise Packet

<http://www.epchsbands.org/wp-content/audio/2011/03/Marching-Bass-Drum-Guide.pdf>

Bass 101: A Comprehensive Guide to Bass Drumming in the Contemporary Marching Medium by Chauncey Holder

<http://portal.rockdale.k12.ga.us/schools/rchs/Extracurricular/Band/Documents/bass%20101.pdf>

How to Change a Marching Bass Drum Head

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HOKKL-lbpQs>

How to Muffle a Marching Bass Drum

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHX0FH5XI_Q

How to Tune Marching Bass Drums

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YciX52QUOZw>

Cymbal Technique

CYMBAL TECHNIQUE 101 BY EDDIE CAPPS

<http://simplepit.com/2013/12/19/cymbal-technique-101-by-eddie-capps/>

Zildjian Score Magazine -- Standard Marching Crashes -- Part 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZdjoOxCGGZw&noredirect=1>

Zildjian Score Magazine -- Standard Marching Crashes -- Part 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1A66Ag7t0hU>

SCV Cymbals 2012

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ZbZVgMtycQ>

scv cymbals 2014

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSRhPGESJoU>

The Massively Awesome Packet of Marching Cymbal Technique

http://crsouthdrumline.weebly.com/uploads/2/1/2/1/21212798/cymbal_packet.pdf

DRUMLINE WEB MATERIALS

Drum Line Warm-ups

ESSENTIAL DRUMLINE WARMUPS - Vic Firth

http://www.vicfirth.com/education/percussion101/MP101_Exercise_Packet.pdf

Free snare and tenor exercises

<http://www.snarescience.com/exercises.php>

Front Ensemble

Behind the CPit - Iain Moyer

<http://iainmoyer.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Official-PN-CPit-Article.pdf>

Life in the Pit

<http://halftimemag.com/articles/11-2010/11-2010-features/life-in-the-pit.html>

Arizona State University Sun Devil Marching Band Front Ensemble Technique and Information Packet

<https://sundevilband.asu.edu/sites/default/files/Arizona%20State%20University%20Front%20Ensemble%20Packet.pdf>

NDIPE 2015 FRONT ENSEMBLE SURVIVAL GUIDE

<https://www.notredamecollege.edu/sites/default/fileuploads/NDIPE%202015%20Survival%20Guide.pdf>

Developing the Front Line Percussion Ensemble by: Brian Mason

<http://www.vicfirth.com/education/articles/mason.html>

Integrating the Front Ensemble with Battery Exercises

http://www.genefambrough.com/uploads/5/6/3/0/5630145/integrating_the_front_ensemble_with_battery_exercises.pdf

Coastal Carolina University Front Ensemble Methods 2014

[https://www.coastal.edu/spirit/CCU%202014%20Packet\[3\].pdf](https://www.coastal.edu/spirit/CCU%202014%20Packet[3].pdf)

Front Ensemble Technique Manual and Front Ensemble Exercises

http://jordansternmusic.com/Portfolio/Front_Ensemble.html

Blue Knights Front Ensemble Technique Packet

<http://www.bknights.org/ensembles/bkpe/pdf/TechniqueBullets.pdf>

Facebook – Drumline and Drum Corp Videos