

2024 AUDITION MATERIALS

DRUM MAJOR



718 Thompson Lane, Suite 108-425
Nashville, TN 37204
(615) 496-1363
office@musiccityyouth.org

MUSIC CITY YOUTH IN THE ARTS, INC.

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CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME!

By downloading this packet, you have taken the first step in a journey that could change your life. The drum corps activity continues to provide young people with a unique experience unlike other performing arts activities. Drum corps asks us to be the best versions of ourselves in pursuit of a common goal: connecting with others through performance. You will spend each day this summer training and improving your 11-minute show with more than 150 fellow performers, building lifelong friendships. No matter the path you choose in life, this activity will provide you with tools and leadership skills you can use beyond your time as a performer.

The mission and purpose of Music City Youth in the Arts shall be to provide experiential education in music and visual performance arts to young people through an immersive program emphasizing camaraderie, fitness, and leadership development. Music City Drum Corps is a youth performing arts organization based in Nashville, TN that participates in World Class competition in Drum Corps International. We are committed to providing a safe, educational, and growth-centered experience for our membership.

Whether you aspire to perform with Music City in 2024, or just want to see what drum corps is like, we sincerely thank you for joining us!

2024 AUDITION DATES

JANUARY 12-14 | NASHVILLE, TN

CONTACT US

ADMINISTRATION & MEMBERSHIP

CHAZ BLEDSOE, CORPS DIRECTOR

chaz.bledsoe@musiccityyouth.org

office@musiccityyouth.org

Dear Music City Drum Major Candidate,

Congratulations on taking the first steps to become a member and leader of Music City Drum Corps! This packet is full of important details about our process—please read this information carefully and prepare the required materials to the best of your ability.

Your audition will involve several aspects including an interview, individual audition, an ensemble performance evaluation, and developmental training. Additionally, throughout the weekend, you will be interacting with our brass and percussion staff during rehearsals. All candidates, regardless of experience, are required to audition every year.

Specific conducting techniques and skills will be taught at the January audition camp. We expect you to come confident in your own technique but flexible with making adjustments that will make you more successful at Music City.

Drum Major Role and Expectations

The 2024 MCDC will be comprised of 3-4 Drum Major positions.

The MCDC Drum Major position is considered a member leadership role. As Drum Major, you are expected to have confident conducting abilities, but more importantly, the enthusiasm and drive to lead and serve fellow members.

If you are offered a contract at the end of January camp, a front-field summer position cannot be guaranteed. All Drum Majors will ultimately be placed on the field according to their best strengths and needs of the summer 2024 production.

Primary Roles of the Drum Majors:

- Be the head of member leadership
- Serve as a conductor of the ensemble
- Operate metronome during rehearsals
- Collaborate as a Drum Major team in the logistical support of the corps
- Serve as a role model at all times for other members
- Communicate with caption head and staff for daily rehearsal needs

Required Rehearsal Materials

Backpack

Three-Ring Binder with Clear Plastic Sheet Protectors

- This will contain all audition materials, music, and handouts you receive.

Pencils/Highlighters/Pens

- These will be used for taking notes and score study.

Athletic Clothing

Water Bottle

Evaluation Criteria

The Drum Major audition consists of a demonstration of your skills, abilities, and attitudes in individual, section, and ensemble settings. The most important thing is for the staff to be able to get a sense of who you are as a student, leader, and performer.

Each candidate will be evaluated on a scoring rubric and receive feedback throughout the weekend.

All Drum Major candidates will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Attitude
- Teachability
- Service + Leadership
- Tempo Control
- Musicianship
- Conducting clarity

Results will be given at the end of the camp weekend.

January Camp Preparation and Expectations

1. Prepared Selection
 - Study the assigned ensemble materials (*Funeral March* and *Fanfare and Chorale*—they will be emailed after your completed registration)
 - You are encouraged to demonstrate intermediate conducting techniques (cues, shaping, etc.)
 - Be prepared to conduct the brass through either piece at January camp.
2. Pulse + Pattern Exercises
 - Be prepared to conduct measures of each time signature at the various tempi listed below with or without a metronome.
 - 2/4, 3/4, 4/4 @ 80, 120, and 170 bpm