



**MINNESOTA BRASS**  
**DRUM & BUGLE CORPS**

# Member Packet

v17.1

# Welcome!

Thank you for taking the first step in becoming part of Minnesota Brass. In this packet you'll find everything you need to prepare before your first rehearsal. Please read it carefully and feel free to contact us if you have any questions: [membership@mnbrass.org](mailto:membership@mnbrass.org)

Our goals are two-fold. First, we wish to provide an educational experience. We hope you can take back with you valuable lessons in music and visual performance. Secondly, it is an evaluation. You will get feedback on the way you move and play. We will also observe your participation and performance level within group rehearsal. You will be evaluated both musically and visually. We may use video and audio recordings to help the staff complete their evaluations and give you feedback.

At the end we will:

1. Give you a membership contract.
2. Provide feedback on what to work on, and call you back to the next rehearsal.

Do not let your nerves stop you from showing up. Our staff is eager to help you develop as a performer. If you have any questions, please contact us at: [membership@mnbrass.org](mailto:membership@mnbrass.org)

## Preparation

The success of your performance at the first rehearsal (and throughout the season) will be directly related to the level of preparation of the materials.

If possible, meet with a private lesson teacher or dance instructor on a regular basis prior to coming and throughout the season if you feel you're falling behind.

Video record yourself. Watch and listen critically to the recording and work to perfect your performance.

We want to see your work ethic in rehearsal as well as how you move, play, and spin individually. Be sure to ask questions if you are confused about anything you are being asked to perform.

Get lots of rest. Things will be very busy. Take a slow deep breath before you begin, and good luck!

## Checklist

Please bring the following items:

- Registration fee
- Athletic fitness clothes and cross-training athletic shoes
- This member packet and any supplemental material
- Pencil
- Any additional items you may need to ensure a successful day
- A positive attitude!

## Use of recording equipment

As noted above, we expect you to record and evaluate yourself. This expectation continues throughout the season with individual progress check-ins. The staff will also use audio/video equipment to record and evaluate members. As the season progresses, we will make recordings of our run throughs and performances available to members as a learning tool so we can continue the process of self-evaluation and improvement even while not rehearsing.

## Media Auditions

If you absolutely cannot make it in-person, you can submit a media audition. See the Visual Exercise page for exercise details. Your video should be uploaded to youtube.com and saved as an *unlisted video*. Email a link to the video to [hornstaff@mnbrass.org](mailto:hornstaff@mnbrass.org). The subject line must indicate "Audition Video" along with your instrument and your name:

**Subject:** Audition Video Mellophone Jane Doe

# Visual Guidelines

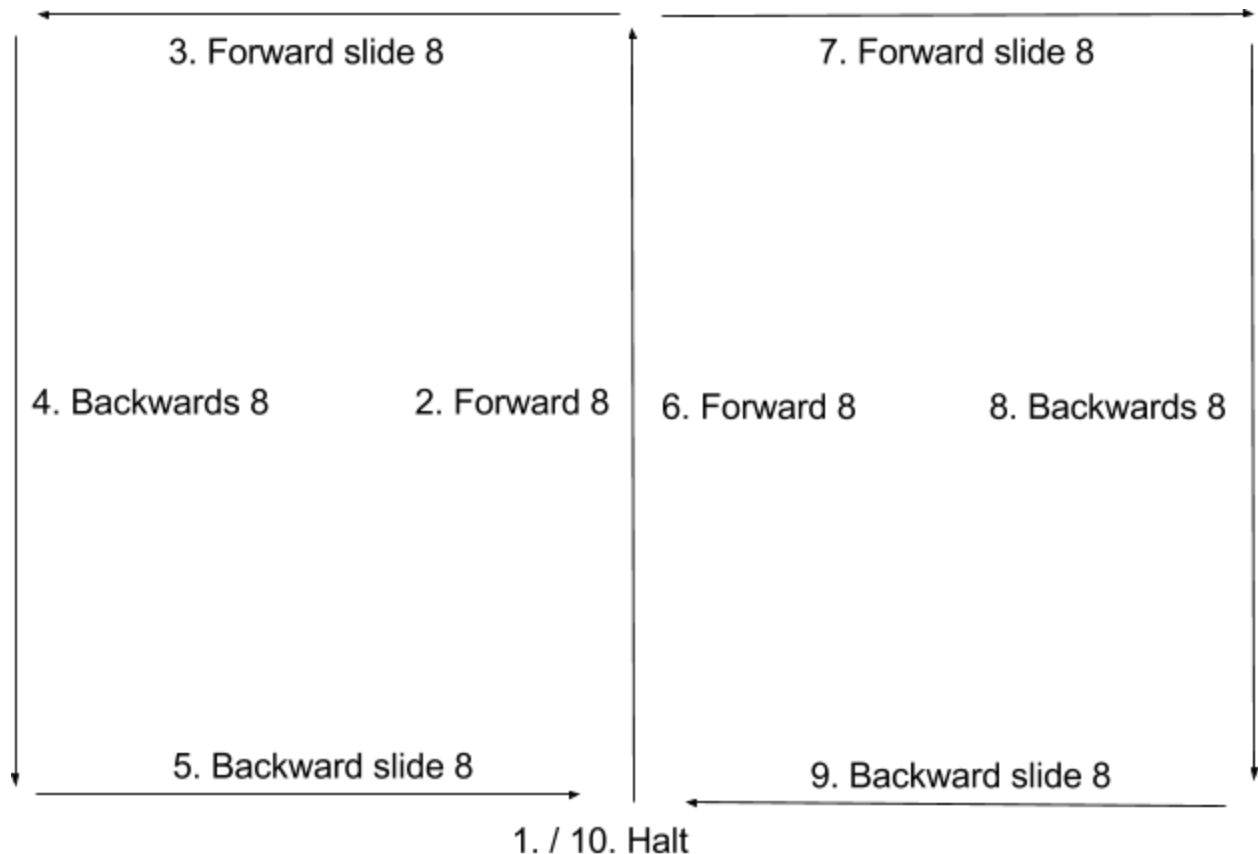
**The key elements we look for are timing, attitude and fitness. We can teach technique, but we cannot teach timing (inner pulse and foot timing).**

Drum corps is a demanding sport and assumes you should be able to run a minimum of 400 meters (1 lap) with relative ease to be successful.

It is important you wear athletic fitness clothes and cross-training athletic shoes for all rehearsals!

# Visual Exercise

As part of our movement program, you'll be asked to play the exercises listed for your instrument while performing a basic box drill routine:



All moves should be performed using a standard 8-to-5 step size. Our specific technique for leg shape, direction changes, etc. will be explained in-person.

Hornline:

- Repeat your musical exercises as needed to complete the full box exercise.
- If you are submitting a media audition, use the technique that you've been taught and perform both exercises at tempo 90.

Percussion:

- For 2 BY 2, hold for the first measure then step on measure 2. You will do  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the box drill (to the left) and halt. Play and march 2 BY 2 a second time, as before, but instead going to the right.
- For Trip Dub, first go forward 12, hold 4, backward 12, hold 4, then start the box drill.

# Hornline

**All ages and skill levels are welcome!** Our members come from a variety of skill backgrounds. We expect you to have some marching experience.

## System Blue

Minnesota Brass performs exclusively on System Blue Professional Series Marching Brass instruments and mouthpieces. We will use the System Blue Series Trumpet (SB12), System Blue Mellophone (SB20), System Blue Euphonium Hybrid (SB30), and the System Blue Double B-flat Tuba (SB50). All of these instruments are provided by Minnesota Brass to MEMBERS ONLY and are available for purchase following each season. If you wish to purchase a certified used instrument from Minnesota Brass, please inquire with the staff or visit the corps' website at [mnbrass.org](http://mnbrass.org). You can find additional information about these and other System Blue instruments at [systemblue.org](http://systemblue.org).



**system blue**

## Trumpet

Bring a trumpet. Lead players should bring their own mouthpiece if they prefer.

If you don't have your own trumpet, instruments and mouthpieces will be provided by the corps.

Be prepared to play the following exercises while moving:

Two staves of musical notation for trumpet exercises. The first staff is in 4/4 time and features a melodic line with a slur over the first four measures, followed by a chromatic scale in the fifth measure, and a final quarter note. The second staff is in 4/4 time and features a rhythmic exercise with a '2' above the first and fifth measures, and a 'ff' dynamic marking below the first measure.

## Mellophone

Instruments and mouthpieces will be provided by the corps.

Be prepared to play the following exercises while moving:

Two staves of musical notation for mellophone exercises. The first staff is in 4/4 time and features a melodic line with a slur over the first four measures, followed by a chromatic scale in the fifth measure, and a final quarter note. The second staff is in 4/4 time and features a rhythmic exercise with a '2' above the first and fifth measures, and a 'ff' dynamic marking below the first measure.



## Baritone/Euphonium/Trombone

If your principal instrument is trombone, you're welcome to bring it. The staff would still like to see and hear you play on euphonium to gauge your finger dexterity.

Otherwise, instruments and mouthpieces will be provided by the corps.

Be prepared to play the following exercises while moving:

Two musical exercises for Baritone/Euphonium/Trombone in bass clef, 4/4 time, and B-flat major. The first exercise is a melodic line starting on G2, moving stepwise up to G4, then descending with a chromatic line. The second exercise consists of two measures of whole notes (G2, B-flat2) followed by two measures of eighth notes (G2, B-flat2) with a '2' above them, and two more measures of whole notes (G2, B-flat2) with a '2' above them. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The dynamic marking *ff* is placed below the first exercise.

## Tuba

Instruments and mouthpieces will be provided by the corps.

Be prepared to play the following exercises while moving:

Two musical exercises for Tuba in bass clef, 4/4 time, and B-flat major. The first exercise is a melodic line starting on G2, moving stepwise up to G4, then descending with a chromatic line. The second exercise consists of two measures of whole notes (G2, B-flat2) followed by two measures of eighth notes (G2, B-flat2) with a '2' above them, and two more measures of whole notes (G2, B-flat2) with a '2' above them. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The dynamic marking *ff* is placed below the first exercise.

# Dues

Minnesota Brass prides itself on providing a world-class experience with a part-time commitment and a financial obligation much lower than a traditional full-time junior corps. We have some of the lowest dues in our activity, and it is a high priority to keep it that way. We also provide several opportunities to lower out-of-pocket dues expenses through early payment, fundraising, and scholarships.

\$50 discount if winter ensemble member of the same season MBI Winter Guard or MBI Indoor Percussion.

Registration Fee	\$25 (waived for winter ensemble members of the current season)
Dues	\$900 (\$100 discount available for early payment)

## What is included with Dues?

- Professional instruction
- Rehearsal facilities
- Meals provided at most camps and several trips
- Your uniform (shako, jacket, pants, plume, gloves)
- New flags and guard uniforms each year
- Equipment, show sticks, mallets
- Transportation to out of town weekends
- Hotel accommodations at DCA Championships

## Other out-of-pocket costs

In addition to dues, here are some other expenses you may want to plan for as the summer approaches:

- Shoes (black marching shoes for horns and drums, and dance shoes for guard)
- Performance undershirt and parade hat (horns and drums)
- Additional gloves, sticks, mallets
- Most meals on trips
- Optional housing (if you prefer less than 4 to a room, or staying in a hotel for gym-stay trips)
- Optional travel expenses (if you prefer to fly or drive on your own rather than take the bus)
- Rehearsal gear: dot book, hat, sunscreen, hearing protection, etc.

Other optional items include:

- Corps jacket
- Section shirt/shorts
- Show shirt
- End of season banquet

## Fundraising and Scholarships

We understand that marching any drum and bugle corps can be an expensive proposition. We do not want to turn away any qualified performers because of a particular financial situation. There will be several opportunities for individuals to lessen their dues through fundraisers. More information about these opportunities will be discussed at rehearsal. Also available for individuals is a season scholarship that requires a written essay. Please inquire about these opportunities: [director@mnbrass.org](mailto:director@mnbrass.org)