

U.S. MARINE MUSIC



Performing With Honor



Turn your passion into a profession by joining The Few. The Proud. The Marines.

The Marine Corps Music Program

A Brief History



On July 11, 1798 in Philadelphia, President John Adams signed an act of Congress which officially established the United States Marine Band, making it the oldest professional musical organization in the United States of America. At that time there were 32 “drummers and fifers” that were stationed in Philadelphia, deployed on ships and other Marine Corps posts. The Marine Band began its most famous tradition on March 4, 1801 when the band was requested by Thomas Jefferson to perform for his inauguration. The Marines have performed at every President’s inauguration since that day.

Whether performing for South Lawn arrival ceremonies, state dinners, or receptions, Marine Band Musicians appear at the White House more than 200 times each year. These performances range from a solo harpist or chamber orchestra, to a dance band or full concert band, making versatility an important requirement for band members. Additionally, the band participates in more than 500 public and official performances annually, including concerts and ceremonies throughout the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Each fall the band travels through a region of the United States during its concert tour, a century-old tradition initiated by John Philip Sousa, the band’s legendary 17th director.

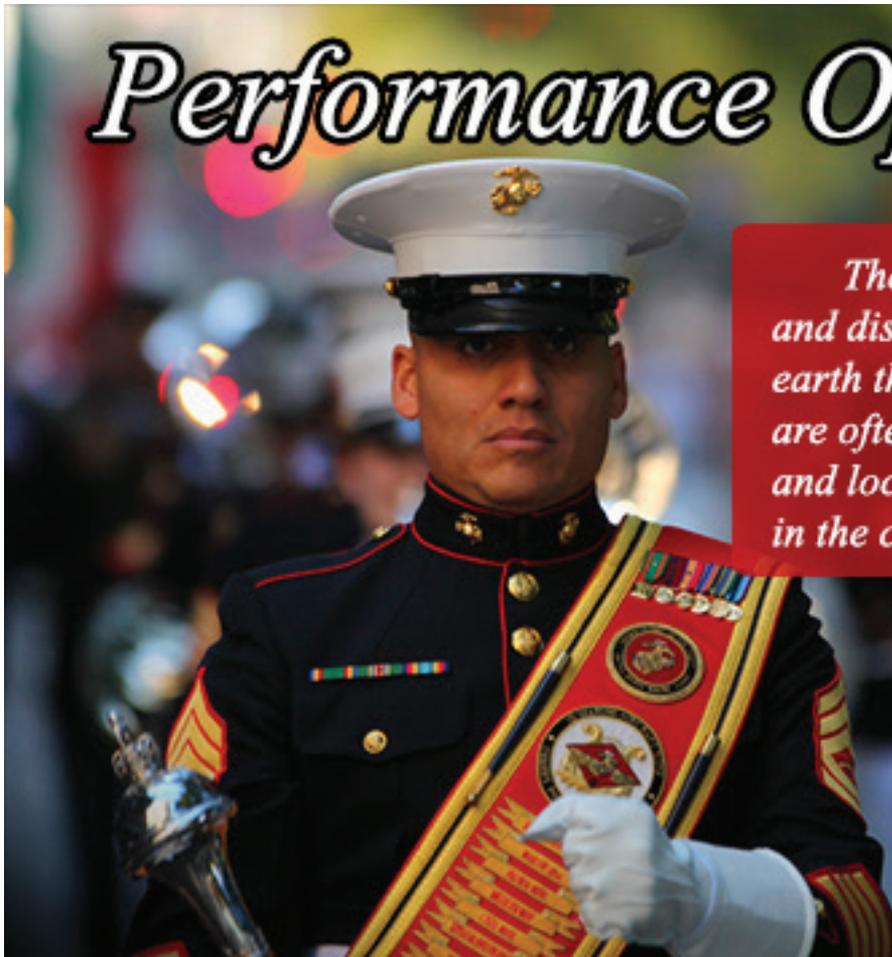
As Director from 1880-92, Sousa brought “The President’s Own” to unprecedented levels of excellence and shaped the band into a world-famous musical organization. During his tenure, the band was one of the first musical ensembles to make sound recordings. Sousa also began to write the marches that earned him the title, “The March King.” The President’s Own continues to maintain Sousa’s standard of excellence. Musicians are selected at auditions much like those of major symphony orchestras, and they enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps for duty with the Marine Band only. Most of today’s members are graduates of the nation’s finest music schools, and nearly 60 percent hold advanced degrees in music.



Marine Music Today

The Marine Band has evolved from 32 drummers and pipers to 12 musical units located throughout the world. Our program consists of The President's Own Marine Band, The Marine Chamber Orchestra and the Commandant's Own Drum and Bugle Corps in addition to 10 Marine Corps Bands. Marine Musicians perform over 300 times a year in a variety of different capacities. The 10 Marine Bands are staffed with 50 Marine Musicians and one Officer who is the Principle Conductor and Officer in Charge. Though Marine Bands are well known for their marching proficiency and discipline, our other performing ensembles command the same respect from our audiences. Each Marine Band also maintains a full wind ensemble, jazz program, chamber ensemble program as well as a contemporary music program. Not only does this versatile array of performing ensembles provide the American People with variety of different styles of musical entertainment, it also serves as a catalyst for the musicians themselves to utilize their experience and express their musical passions in their career as professional musicians.

Performance Opportunities



The Marine Band is famous for its precision and discipline. There is not a marching band on earth that looks or sounds better. Marine Bands are often found performing in nationally televised and local parades, inspiring patriotism and pride in the community.



The wind ensemble performs a wide variety of classical literature including standard literature, modern compositions as well as patriotic standards. The band will perform concerts across the nation at the most reputable concert venues.

Chamber Ensembles



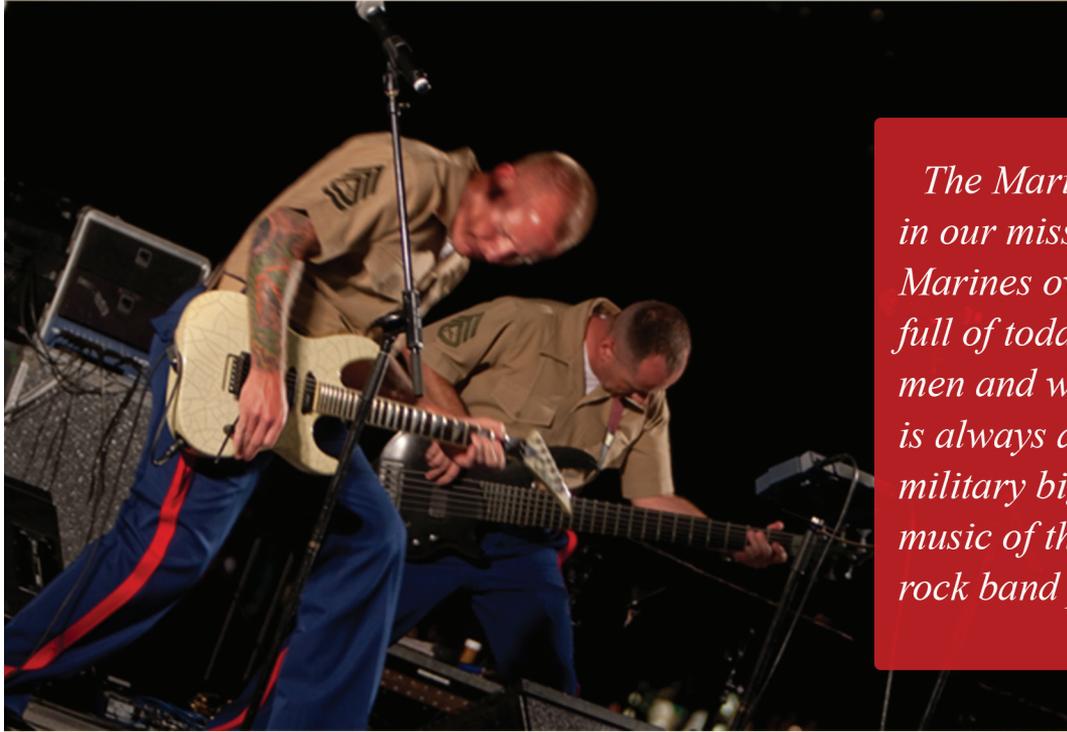
Chamber music is a vital component to a Marine Band's arsenal. Ensembles such as Brass Quintet, Woodwind Quintet, Saxophone Quartet, Brass Choir, Percussion Ensembles and many others regularly perform for formal military ceremonies, receptions and concerts throughout the world. Brass musicians have the opportunity to play in several different performing ensembles. Our brass quintets are routinely featured in nationwide and regional concert tours, local concerts, educational outreach programs and many more.



Woodwind instrumentalists have the opportunity to perform in the woodwind quintet, which performs anything from standard woodwind quintet literature, original compositions to arrangements of today's popular music. Like our brass ensembles, these groups regularly perform in the community for educational outreach programs and regional concert tours.



Contemporary Music



The Marine Band has always taken pride in our mission of performing for our Marines overseas and at home. A live show full of today's popular music performed by men and women wearing the same uniform is always a boost to a Marine's morale. As military big bands performed the popular music of the 1940's, today you may see a rock band performing top 40 hits.

Another popular group that has become a staple in many Marine Band's line-up is the brass band. Comprised of a mixture of brass players saxophones and drums, this mobile group loves to energize an audience with their arrangements of popular music and traditional Dixieland music.



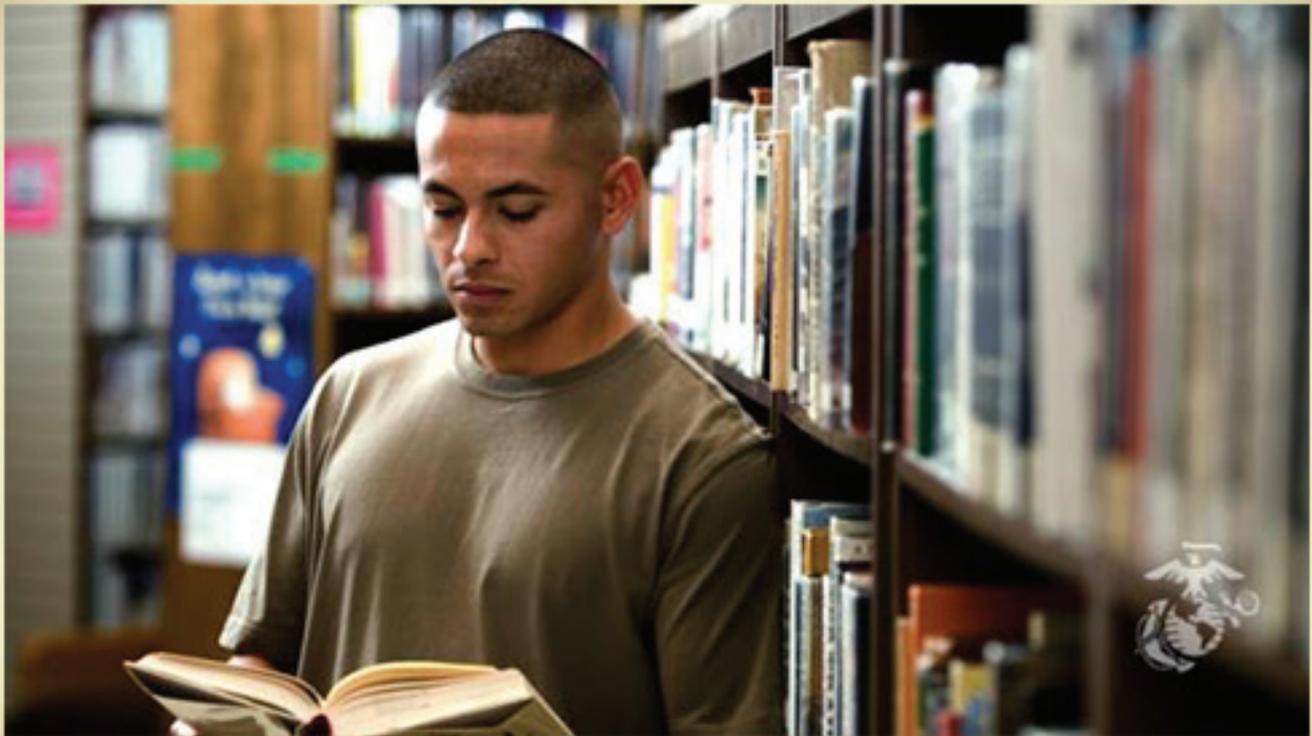
Jazz Ensembles



The opportunities for jazz musicians in the Marines are endless. Whether you are performing on stage with world famous musicians or performing for the Commandant of the Marine Corps and his special guests, you will always be able to play America's art of jazz with the Few and the Proud. In recent years, Marine Jazz ensembles have been fortunate enough to share the stage with world-renowned jazz musicians such as Michael Mossman, Jon Faddis, Victor Goines, Phil Wilson and many more. Marine Band's regularly field multiple jazz groups, including a full band as well as smaller jazz trios and combos.

Benefits of the Marine Corps Music Program

Educational Opportunities



The Marine Corps offers a vast number of programs to further education. Marines can pursue their degree while on active duty and after completion of service. The Tuition Assistance program covers 100% of tuition at accredited institutions and is available at every duty station. The Post 9/11 G.I. Bill covers 100% tuition as well as assistance for fees, books and supplies. Marines are eligible for a monthly housing stipend. The Post 9/11 G.I. Bill can also be transferred to a dependent. Marine applicants may also be eligible for the Marine Corps College Fund, which adds a significant educational based payout to any enlistment program. Additionally, the Marine Corps Institute offers 180 free self-paced distance education courses. Over 40% of courses earn college credits and can earn points toward promotion.

Leadership and Management Skills

Every Marine is a Leader



The United States Marine Corps trains all Marines to be effective leaders, regardless of rank or occupational specialty. Leadership training begins in the delayed entry program and continues throughout every Marine's career. Marines receive progressive leadership training by observing experienced leaders, attending formal leadership courses, distance education and priceless experience gained every day.

In the Marine Music Program, Marine Musicians are trained to encompass their leadership skills in their music. In an organization that's operational tempo is very high paced, leadership and management at all levels is paramount to achieve the high standard of success that is expected. Marine Musicians have the opportunity to train to become section leaders, ensemble leaders, drum major, conductors and many other positions. Our training has proven to make extremely successful musicians and highly effective music educators. The experience gained as a Marine Musician will teach you how to effectively manage not only your classroom, but will help aid you in dealing with any situation that arises.

Financial Security, Advancement and Benefits



The Marine Corps is committed to helping secure the financial future of those who secure our nation's future. If you take the challenge, the Marine Corps will invest in you – advancing your mind, and your opportunities.

Like all Marines, musicians receive a salary based on rank and time in service. With each promotion to the next rank, comes a pay raise. Additional pay raises are received after 2, 3, and 4 years of service. Aside from the salary, Marines receive other monetary benefits including an allowance for housing, sustenance allowance, cost of living allowance, annual uniform allowance, special duty pay and allowances and even re-enlistment incentives/ bonuses.

Musicians qualified for service in the Marine Music Program are dedicated musicians who have proven their commitment to musical proficiency through years of practice and dedication to their craft. To reward that commitment, Marine Musicians are guaranteed accelerated promotion. Through all of these promotions, Musicians are also eligible for meritorious promotions based on job performance.

Marine Musician Promotion Schedule

Private First Class – E-2 - Immediate

Lance Corporal – E-3 - 8 Months of service

Corporal – E-4 - 24 Months of Service

Sergeant – E-5 - 36 Months of Service (Must possess bachelor's degree in music)

Physical Fitness



Marines are known throughout the world for their high level of physical fitness. Marine Musicians are no different. As ambassadors of the Marine Corps and our great nation, there is always the expectation that we maintain the same training standards as all Marines.

Getting ready for the challenges and rigors of recruit training begins in the Delayed Entry Program. Your recruiter will mentor you to ensure you are prepared by establishing your own personal physical fitness program.

Eventually you will stop counting the number of pull-ups, push-ups and miles you run. You will learn to negotiate obstacle courses you never thought possible, and you will be faster every time.

Every Marine Corps Base is equipped with a state of the art gym, recreational sports facilities, intermural and organized athletics programs, cross fit programs and many more. All of these amenities are designed to allow the Marines aboard the base to maintain a high level of physical fitness throughout their career.

Travel and Adventure

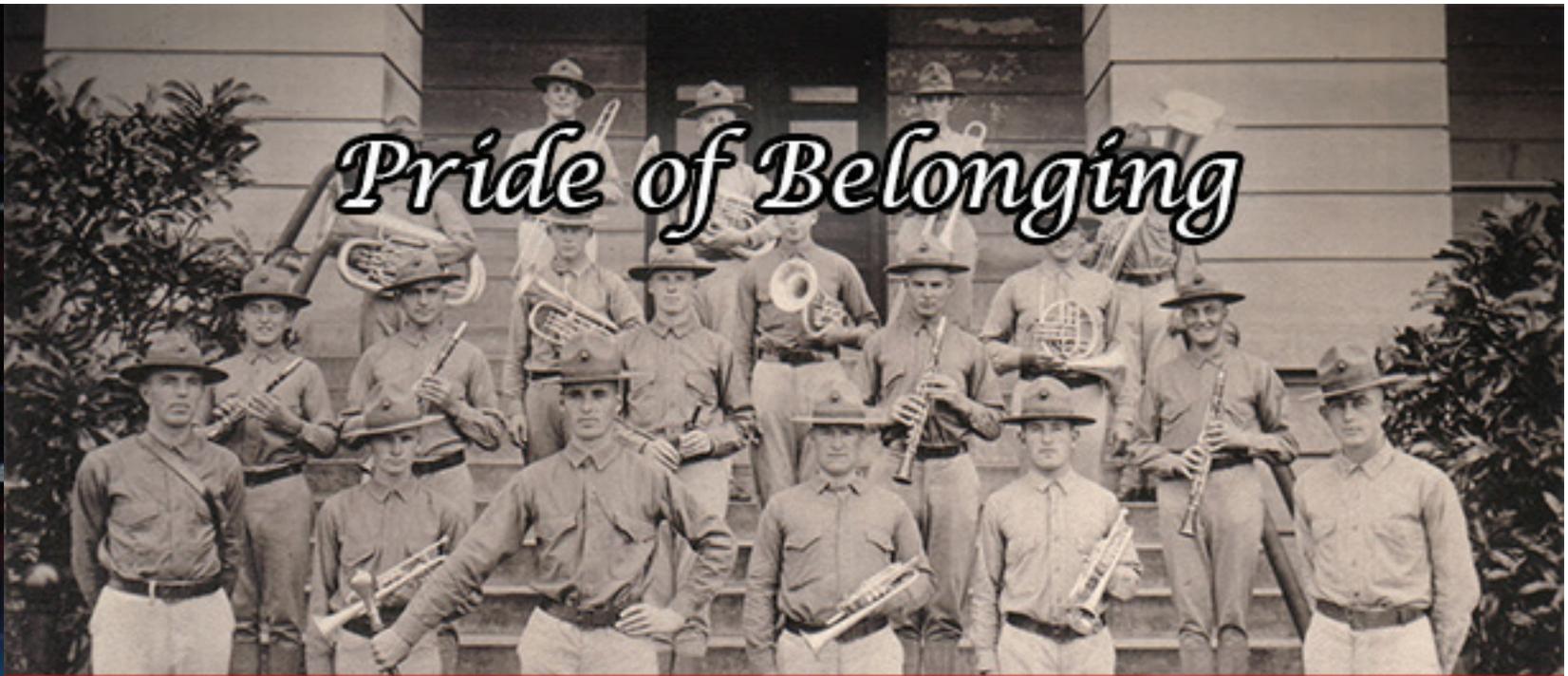
The background of the page is a collage of four distinct images. At the top left is a large, snow-capped mountain, Mount Fuji, under a blue sky with light clouds. To the right of the mountain is a traditional Japanese temple with multiple tiers of dark grey roofs and red wooden railings, set against a backdrop of pink cherry blossoms. Below the mountain is a large, multi-tiered pagoda with a golden spire, situated on a hillside. At the bottom right is a large, stone castle with multiple towers and turrets, surrounded by lush green trees.

Every day is an adventure as a Marine Musician. You never know where the next performance may be. Marine Bands are in high demand throughout the nation and throughout the world. If you have ever dreamed of traveling to foreign countries, experiencing different cultures and trying new foods, life as a Marine Musician will help that dream come true.

Whether the gig is a military tattoo in Scotland, a remembrance ceremony in Europe, a reception for the Japanese Consulate General or a performance for the troops in Korea, our music transcends the universal language barriers. For every international performance, Marine Bands are ambassadors for the Marine Corps and our country fostering relationships with foreign nations.

As a Marine Musician, you could be stationed at 1 of 10 Marine Bands located throughout the United States and the world. There are four bands located on the east coast, spanning from Parris Island, S.C. to as far north as Quantico, Va. There are three bands in Southern California, all located in the San Diego area. There are also Marine Bands in New Orleans, La., Hawaii and Okinawa, Japan.

Pride of Belonging



Less than one percent of America's population claims the title United States Marine. Less than one percent of Marines claim the title of Marine Musician. Members of the Marine Band not only belong to the finest fighting force in the world, but they also belong to an elite organization of professional musicians. These musicians have developed a special bond through overcoming the same challenges, sharing the same goals and ultimately becoming a storied part of our nation's history.

America loves her Marines. Whenever a Marine Band marches onto an NFL football field to perform the National Anthem, or plays a patriotic concert, we are always greeted with applause and gratitude. As the public face of the Marine Corps, we represent the proud traditions of honor, heroism and sacrifice of the men and women currently serving our Marines who came before us.



Courage, Poise and Self Confidence



The Marine Corps will help you master your fears, persevere in the face of adversity and overcome mental and physical obstacles. Through the completion of training, gaining valuable skills and accomplishing goals you may never have thought possible, you may begin to see a stronger person in the mirror. You will gain composure under pressure, demonstrate control at all times and begin to recognize your potential to succeed. Throughout your career as a Marine Musician, you will develop extreme confidence in your abilities. This is achieved by tireless military and musical training, the expectations of near perfection and continuous successes in your daily life. This transformation will happen before your eyes, even before you have earned the title of Marine. You will walk taller, speak louder and shake hands more firmly, because you have accomplished more in the Marines than most people will in a lifetime. Former president Ronald Regan once said, "Most people go their entire lives wondering if they have made a difference, Marines don't have the problem."

Challenge



Everyone has different strengths and weaknesses. As a Marine, the training and performance standards will challenge you in one way or another. Some are challenged by the physical training requirements. Others are challenged by the musical diversity required of Marine Musicians. Either way, if you are the type of individual that thrives when facing unfamiliar circumstances or overcoming perceived obstacles set before you, then you will find that challenge in the Marine Music Program.

Your challenge will begin in the Delayed Entry Program where you will begin the physical and mental training to prepare you for the rigors of recruit training. You will begin by pushing past your perceived physical limitations in your individual physical training program. You will be challenged mentally by your indoctrination into Marine Corps history, customs, and courtesies and basic Marine Corps knowledge. The challenge will be multiplied upon your arrival at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island or San Diego where you will undergo 13 weeks of the world's most difficult recruit training.

After you have successfully completed recruit training and have earned the title United States Marine, your next challenge will be Marine Combat Training. Though Marine Bands typically do not find themselves in harm's way, you will be trained and challenged just like every Marine. At MCT you will be trained to execute basic infantry tactics, deploy and fire weaponry organic to infantry units, military operations on urban terrain and many others that will challenge you to be a basic rifleman.

Following MCT, your next challenge will be the Naval School of Music, where you will take your musical prowess to the next level. No matter your background or education level, you will face challenges everyday as you learn the basics of what it means to be a Marine Musician.

Professional Development and Opportunities



Each Marine Band is led by several specialists who comprise the command element of the band. These Marines are responsible for each performance from preparation to execution and everything in between. From the advertising to the stage management, the command element is in charge of every aspect of their ensemble. These technical specialists are commanded by the Band Officer, who is the Principle Conductor and Officer in Charge. Directly under the Band Officer are; the Drum Major, who trains and leads the Marine Band on the March, the Enlisted Conductor who shares the podium with Band Officer, the Small Ensemble Leader who is in charge of the Chamber, Jazz and Contemporary Music programs and the Instrument Repair Technician, who not only fixes instruments but manages the finances and supplies the band's logistical needs.

Each of these Marine Musicians has developed and honed their specialized skills over a period of many years. To be selected as a command element leader, A Marine Musician must undergo a long period of apprenticeship. The apprentice is carefully trained and gradually given more opportunities to lead ensembles and manage the operations of performances. When the apprentice has proven that they have developed into an effective command element member, they can go through a competitive selection process to apply for their desired position.

Technical Skills

Most people do not realize the amount of “behind the scenes” work that is necessary to properly prepare for and execute even a routine performance. As a Marine Musician, you will be a part of the band’s success, and not just on the stage. Throughout your career you will be trained and tasked to execute a wide variety of different jobs. Your experiences in these collateral duties develop necessary skills that are highly sought after by the civilian sector employers. For many Marine Musicians in our program, these skills will help them achieve their goals of becoming effective music educators. Some of the technical skills that are learned include sound reinforcement, marketing and public affairs, graphic design, photography, administration, music library management, training management, budget management, operations management, logistics management, supply and purchasing, instrument repair, facilities maintenance, transportation management and many more. Marine Musicians also have the opportunity to learn and develop technical skills through additional formal schools offered to all Marines, and even joint service formal schools.



The Naval School of Music



The Basic Music Course

As the first of several courses of instruction currently offered at the school, the 21 week Music Basic Course encompasses the fundamentals of music theory and ear training as well as instrumental performance.

The schedule is rigorous. During an average school day, which begins at 7:30 a.m., students attend academic classes, perform in a variety of ensembles, hone their marching skills and, as time permits, get a head start on the 15 hours of individual practice required weekly.

Students' progress is carefully monitored and each musician must pass several auditions over the course of training. Special emphasis, therefore, is placed on private instruction.

There are more than 20 instrumental instructors on staff who are carefully screened and chosen from top performers in Navy and Marine Corps ensembles worldwide. In addition to having completed advanced levels of training at the Naval School of Music, most hold degrees from universities and music conservatories.

Students attending the Music Basic Course receive training in the following area:

Music theory

Ear training

Private instrumental instruction

Concert band

Jazz ensemble

Contemporary music ensemble

Improvisation

Marching band

Musical instrument digital interface (MIDI – keyboard and guitar students only)

For More Information visit:

MarineMusic@Marines.USMC.mil

or

visit your local Marine Recruiter





YOU WILL LEARN TO WALK WITH HONOR.

YOU WILL GAIN THE WISDOM
TO COMMAND WITH DECISIVE RESOLVE.

YOU WILL TAKE YOUR PLACE
AMONG THE MOST ELITE WARRIORS ON EARTH.

IF YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE IT.



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