



Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the United States Marine Music program. Please review the following letter and enclosed materials to familiarize yourself with the process of becoming a United States Marine Musician. There are two essential elements to the process: (a) you must establish your entrance qualifications as a musician and (b) you must establish your entrance qualifications as a Marine. The Musician Placement Director is the Marine responsible for reviewing and certifying your musical qualification. A local Marine Corps recruiter will help you determine your enlistment qualifications and guide you through the process of becoming a Marine.

Establish Musical Qualification

In order to become eligible to serve as a Marine Musician, musical proficiency must be established in accordance with Marine Corps Audition Standards. Musical qualifications required are primarily commercial and jazz based and is conducted in two parts: (a) preliminary round and (b) audition round. Audition will be performed on a full 88-key keyboard and/or piano.

Preliminary Round

The preliminary round is used to establish musical background and the potential to succeed in the audition round. You will need to provide the following materials: (a) video submission performing all selections, accordingly. (b) a completed Musician Screening and Evaluation Questionnaire and (c) most recent résumé (résumé optional). Any additional works, solos and performances demonstrating overall strengths are encouraged and welcomed but are not required. Submissions may be sent via the email or address provided on the signature block below.

Audition Round

Based on the preliminary round, you may be invited to perform the audition round. The Musician Placement Director will hold the audition round within your geographical area, which will be coordinated through the local Marine Corps recruiter. This serves as the final determining factor for establishing musical entrance qualifications for service as a Marine Musician. The audition round consists of the following:

Event 1 – Perform selections, accordingly with play-along tracks (*aebersold swing/latin tracks preferred; not provided*):

- (1) Jazz/Swing: Autumn Leaves, Jeannine, and Star Eyes
 - a. prepare melody, comp, improvised solo, melody and outro.
- (2) Latin: Girl from Ipanema, Summer Samba, One Note Samba
 - a. prepare melody, comp, improvised solo, melody and outro.
- (3) Contemporary: Chicago Song, Snakes, What It Is
 - a. prepare to play-along with original tracks (*not provided*)
- (4) Solo piano: Every Breath You Take, Misty, 'Round Midnight
 - a. no play-along tracks for these selections will be used
- (5) Concert/Orchestral: West Side Story, Appalachian Spring, Shepherd's Style

Event 2 – Perform from memory: major and 3 forms of minor (natural, harmonic, melodic) scales (2 octaves), including triad arpeggio. There are a total of 12 scales per type, for a total of 48 scales. The proctor will ask for a sample of 3 to 4 scales of his choosing per type, for a total of 12 to 16 scales. Tempo for all scales are at a minimum of quarter-note@144 beats per minute, eight-note pattern.



Event 3 – Perform sight-reading as provided by proctor.

If you have any questions regarding the audition process, feel free to contact me directly or you may contact your local Marine Corps recruiter. I look forward to your submission and wish you the best of luck!

Sincerely,

James R. Holt

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