



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 entrance 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 are conducted in two parts: (a) preliminary round and (b) audition round.

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 instrument specific musical excerpts as described below (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 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. The audition round for all percussion instrumentalists is quite involved and the applicant should expect approximately an hour for completion. This serves as the final determining factor for establishing musical entrance qualifications for service as a Marine Musician. The audition consists of the following:

Event 1 – Perform on rudimental snare drum:

- (a) Drum Corps on Parade by Pratt.
- (b) from memory; 26 standard American Rudiments.
- (c) double stroke roll; performed from open to closed to open.

Event 2 – Perform on concert snare:

- (a) Portraits in Rhythm by Cirone.
- (b) concert roll from softest possible to loudest possible back to softest possible.
- (c) perform sight-reading as provided by proctor.



Event 3 – Perform on mallet instrument (xylophone/marimba):

(a) Etude V by Goldenburg.

(b) 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. Tempo must be at quarter note @ 144 beats per minute or faster; in eight note pattern. 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.

Event 4 – Perform on drum set with play-along tracks:

(a) swing in 2 and 4 with trading 4s, bossa nova, samba, rock and funk.

(b) 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

Gunnery Sergeant | Musician Placement Director

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