



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 enlisting in the Marine Corps.

### **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.

#### ***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:

**Video A:** National Anthem (a cappella, key of your choice)

**Video B:** Perform a seven song set list as if in concert with transitions, transitioning comments, etc. Set list **MUST** be performed on mic with backing tracks / play-a-long recordings using an adequate sound system.

**Set list must include the following styles (can be in the order of your choice)**

1. Pop/Rock
2. Soul/Funk
3. Ballad
4. Country
5. Jazz/Standard Swing
6. Rap/Hip-Hop
7. Patriotic or Broadway

#### ***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 prepared selections from preliminary round.

**Event 2** – Perform sight-reading as provided by proctor.

A. Sight Singing: 2 or 3 single line examples such as those found in ear training books. Performed a cappella. Reference pitch and key chord will be given by the proctor.

B. Lead Sheets: 1 or 2 Lead Sheets performed with backing track or live rhythm section (based on availability).

Part 1 – Sing / speak one pitch throughout form (with backing track). Match lyrics to rhythms.

Part 2 – Sing as a complete piece checking ability to sing correct pitches, rhythms, and lyrics.

OPTIONAL – Scat improvisation over form. Improvisation not required for the position.



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  
Office: 516.228.5614 • Mobile: 516.972.8702 • Fax: 516.228.5629  
james.holt@marines.usmc.mil

1<sup>st</sup> Marine Corps District  
605 Stewart Ave  
Garden City, NY 11530