

The Dynamic Marching Band

Rehearsal Techniques That Work

presented by

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Marching Show Concepts

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McCormick Place West
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2:30 p.m. - Room W184**

Rehearsal Techniques That Work

I Rehearsal Philosophy

- A) Two Important Learning Concepts
 - 1) Spiral Learning Model
 - 2) Multiple Learning Styles
- B) Music vs. Visual Rehearsal Balance
- C) Time Allotments
- D) The Daily Warm-up (& Development)

II Rehearsal Goals

- A) Long Range – Seasonal
- B) Middle Range – Weekly
- C) Short Range – Daily

III Rehearsal Methods

- A) Concepts for members
- B) Concepts for director and staff
- C) Individual Attention
- D) Efficient use of time
 - 1) Law of Diminishing Returns
 - 2) Take a break
- E) Rehearsal Methods – Summary thoughts
 - 1) The band director *controls* the rehearsal
 - 2) Telling the students something is *not* teaching.
 - 3) Understand the concepts of *productivity*.
 - 4) Talk less, play more!

IV Rehearsal Etiquette

- A) Foundation
- B) Expectations
- C) Behavior/Discipline Goals
- D) Eight Expectations for Good Rehearsal Etiquette

V Rehearsal Procedures

A) Rehearsal Levels

- 1) Instructional Mode
- 2) Rehearsal Mode
- 3) Performance Mode

B) Rehearsal Focus - Music ~ Visual

- 1) One focus
- 2) Music/Drill Independence & Coordination

C) Field Rehearsal Routine

- 1) **Fall in** at “(Parade) Rest Position” Clearly define:
 - (a) starting and **stopping** point
 - (b) **to play or not** and what the goal is
 - (c) **music or visual focus** of rehearsal needs to be clear
- 2) **“Set” command** from Mic (or Drum Major)—band comes to attention with instruments up or down as called for. (If everyone is not ready, “Band Ten-Hut” or “Horns Up” without impatience in voice—see if there is a problem or confusion)
- 3) Don’t start until attention is set and **3-5 seconds of silence** has elapsed to establish “focus.” {*The Moment of Silence*}
- 4) **Eight count count-off** from conductor or Dr. Beat®
- 5) End the move with a **“Plus one step”** (2-3-4-close) and hold position and silence. (The staff needs to hold the 3-5 second silence as well to maintain the quiet mood)
- 6) **Check form & spacing** with “eyes only” on command—do not move.
- 7) **“Adjust”** command from Mic (or Drum Major)—make adjustments in spacing and alignment.
- 8) Optional—**“Check set”**—paint marks or step it off. Fall in at attention.
- 9) **“Rest Position”** from Mic (or Drum Major)
 - (a) **First** – Microphone comments (**one person only at a time**)
 - (i) Give *clear and brief* corrections
 - (ii) Compliment (better, good, almost) or “we need to repeat that”
 - (b) **Second** – Field staff makes quick comments (on “field staff” cue), *clear and brief* (if they need time or have full ensemble comments—communicate to mic person)

- (c) **Third** - Mic instructions
 - (i) “Reset back to__” or
 - (ii) “We are going to continue and stop at __”
- 10) **Repeat - “Reset”** - move quickly - don’t need to run or be silent, sometimes ask squad leaders to make helpful comments, field staff and mic staff can make more individual or small group comments or **Continue** to next segment
- 11) Members should fall in at **“Rest Position.”** “Set” from Mic is the cue for leaders and staff to be silent and members to be ready to move (back to #2 above).
- 12) When the rehearsal and marching skills have reached a good level of consistency, each step-off should begin with a **“Minus one”** to solidify chart-to-chart direction changes.
- 13) **Numbers 1 thru 9 should all be done in silence.**

VI Rehearsal Set-ups

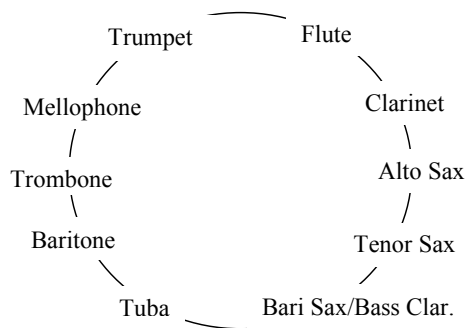
A) Outdoors

- 1) Circle (or arcs)
 - (a) Like instruments together
 - (b) Open spacing to develop independence and hear individuals
 - (c) Mix it up sometimes
- 2) Concert Formation
 - (a) Use for an outdoor “concert” setting
 - (b) or different rehearsal form

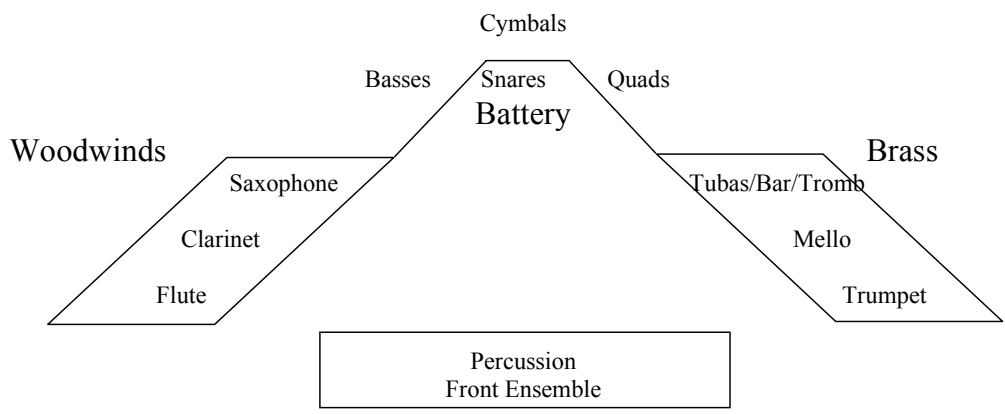
B) Indoors

- 1) Like concert band
- 2) Like instruments together
- 3) 1sts/leads in center or behind 2nds & 3rds (modeling)
- 4) Aisle in center - get off the podium and up close
- 5) Battery behind
- 6) Front ensemble in front

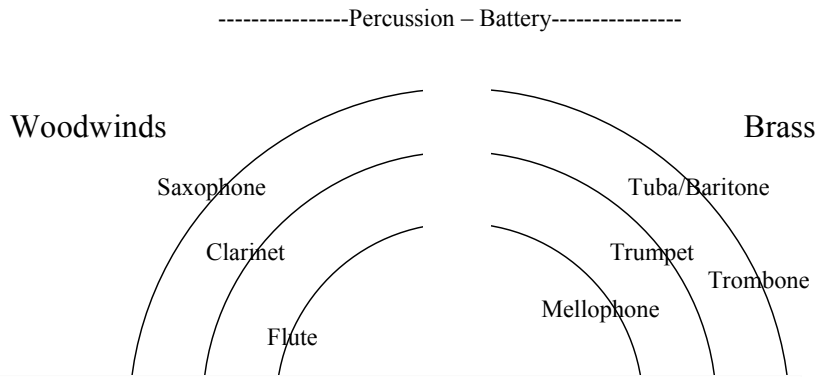
Outdoor Warm-up Circle



Outdoor Concert Formation

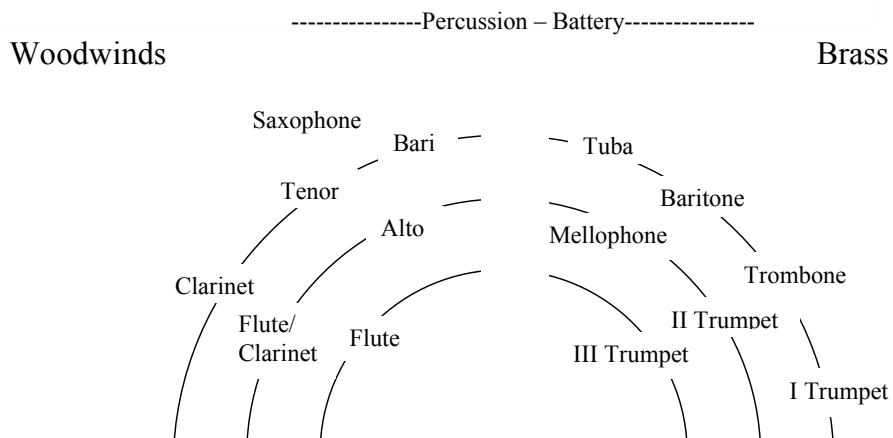


Indoor Rehearsal Set-up 1



-----Percussion - Front Ensemble-----

Indoor Rehearsal Set-up 2



-----Percussion – Front Ensemble-----