

MICHIGAN STATE SPARTAN MARCHING BAND

2020 Virtual Audition Information

Updated - Friday, May 1st

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all auditions for the fall 2020 season will be adjudicated online. All applicants should review the audition requirements below before submitting an audition.

Further questions about the specific audition requirements should be directed to the following staff members:

- Hornline & Big Ten Flag - Dr. Thornton: dt@msu.edu / Dr. Golden: goldenar@msu.edu
- Drumline - Dr. Weber: weberjon@msu.edu
- Colorguard - Emily Rogers: michiganstatecolorguards@gmail.com

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Summer audition timeline:

- All applicants (regardless of section) should **register for an audition** using the following form: <https://forms.gle/cAGrbDrkRwAxBzix9>
- All drumline applicants should complete this form ASAP for complete access to audition materials: <https://forms.gle/YcSPqY9BS8c18K9S8>. If you have the music to Y2, you have already completed this form. To submit your first round video audition, no later than Friday June 5th, please use the following **audition submission** form: <https://forms.gle/LpKpqRTVtQ3uQhBx6>
- All hornline, colorguard, and big ten flag applicants should submit their audition, no later than Friday July 10th, using the following **audition submission** form: <https://forms.gle/LpKpqRTVtQ3uQhBx6>

Any individual who is auditioning for more than one section should submit a form for each audition.

Once your audition is submitted, you will receive a confirmation email that your audition materials have been received. (Please allow 2-3 days for processing time)

A note for the 2020 fall season:

At this time, we are planning to move forward as usual for the start of our 2020 season. The fall 2020 season information mailing, including all audition results, will be sent no later than Friday, July 17th. This mailing will answer all of your questions regarding the upcoming year. **Please note:** All students who audition successfully for the Spartan Marching Band (SMB) will be expected to report to campus on Monday, August 24th. All new drumline members will be expected to report to campus on Saturday, August 22nd.

Any changes to our season, reporting dates, etc., will be communicated via email and D2L.

Other important information that would have been communicated at auditions:

- Students cannot be accepted into the SMB if you have not been fully admitted to Michigan State University (MSU).
- All students must enroll for credit in MUS 114 - Spartan Marching Band. When scheduling your classes for the fall semester, you should communicate to your advisor that you are planning to participate in the SMB (even if you have not heard about results). Rehearsals are everyday from 4:30-6pm, with sectionals from 4:00-4:25pm on Wednesday/Friday, and an additional Monday night rehearsal from 7-9pm. Drumline has *additional* rehearsals Monday / Wednesday / Friday from 3:30 - 4:30 pm. **Class conflicts are not permitted for first year members.** You should plan the rest of your schedule around these times.
- You will be contacted by our section leaders once results are posted. They will be a great resource for you. Please utilize them and communicate all your questions!

A large, light gray watermark of the MSU Marching Band logo is centered on the page. The logo is circular with 'MARCHING' at the top and 'BAND' at the bottom. In the center is a shield with 'MSU' and a 'TM' symbol. There are four stars around the inner circle.

Good luck and Go Green!
#answerthecall

Spartan Marching Band Virtual Audition Requirements

Hornline Audition Information (Saxophone and Brass Instruments)

The instrumental audition should consist of one prepared solo piece or etude involving contrasting styles (3 to 5 minutes in length). A piece that you might perform at a “Solo and Ensemble Festival” would be appropriate. This piece does not need to be memorized. The piece should demonstrate the best of your musical ability - think of this as an opportunity to “wow” the adjudicator.

Please also prepare the following major scales: C, F, B flat, E flat, A flat, G, D, A, E. (Note these are not listed in concert pitch. C major scale should be started on “C” for every instrument) All of these scales should be performed by memory. Candidates are encouraged to play as many octaves as possible. The pattern can be of your choosing, again, with the goal to demonstrate the best of your musical ability.

All hornline members will submit two videos, a musical and a visual.

The music video audition must contain:

- Introduction of yourself (First name, last name, where you are from, and potential section).
- Solo piece/etude from beginning to end.
- All scales listed above from memory.

Your music audition will be evaluated using the following criteria: tone, intonation, rhythm, articulation, technique, expression, and overall musicality. Please make sure that your face and hands are visible in your video while you are performing the required elements.

The visual video audition must contain:

- Display of marching technique on a football field – 10 yards of forward march “8 to 5” and 5 yards of backwards march “8 to 5” at tempos of quarter = 120 and quarter = 156 (If you do not have access to a field, please find the next best solution)

Students should utilize their schools’ marching technique when submitting videos. **Your visual audition will be evaluated using the following criteria:** posture, body control, timing, technique, overall visual performance. Please make sure that your entire body is visible for the whole performance, so that the viewer can best see all of the required elements.

All videos will be reviewed by Dr. Thornton, Dr. Golden, and graduate teaching assistants.

A note for brass and saxophone music majors:

If you plan to be a music-major, your MSU College of Music audition will satisfy for automatic membership in the Spartan Marching Band. These music majors will receive an invitation letter from the Band Office in early May. If you would like to participate in the SMB as a music major, simply fill out the form in the early May mailing and return it to the MSU Band Office. You will then be included in our July mailing for all new SMB members. Questions about this process should be directed to Dr. Thornton (dtt@msu.edu).

Drumline Audition Information

Please read ALL of the information below if you are considering an audition for the MSU Drumline. VIDEO AUDITION INFORMATION IS AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS SECTION. There is a lot of information here; please read it all, and if you have questions, ask Jon Weber at drumline@msu.edu or post on the drumline help session Facebook page!

There are two rounds of auditions for the MSU Drumline. Both rounds will now be evaluated by video / online. Videos must be submitted by:

First round: Friday, June 5 (11:59 pm)

Second round: Friday, July 10 (11:59 pm)

The video should be posted (unlisted) on YouTube, with the link sent to drumline@msu.edu. The deadline for sending in this video is 11:59 pm, Friday, June 5. Once you have recorded your videos, add them all to a playlist. Please post the link to your video playlist on the Google Form here: <https://forms.gle/LpKpqRTVtQ3uQhBx6>. Requirements for the video are listed below. Returning drumline members will only be taking part in the second round of the audition.

All of the videos will be reviewed by Dr. Weber, each section leader, and Dan Hartung (graduate teaching assistant). Everyone auditioning will receive feedback where he / she stands in the audition, what he / she needs to work on, and whether he / she has made it to the second round of the audition on that instrument. If you are not chosen for your first instrument, you may have the option to play the second audition on another instrument. (For example, if you audition for snare and are not chosen, you may have the opportunity to audition for cymbals at the second audition.)

The second round of the audition will also be done via video submission and a small Zoom (video conference) component. All students, including returning members (except squad leaders) are required to submit videos for this audition. Music for the audition will be announced after the first audition (much of the music will be the same as the first audition). The Zoom portion of the audition will be on Saturday, July 11. Each person will have an 8-minute meeting with Dr. Weber, teaching assistant, and section leader. If you would not be able to Zoom for 10 minutes on July 11, just fill the appropriate information on the Google form.

Results of the audition will be announced by July 17.

You may audition for any instrument you wish. Each instrument is auditioned separate from the others. Some pieces are not online due to copyright protection. To obtain these pieces, please email Jon Weber at drumline@msu.edu. It is important to observe this copyright; do not share these works. There is also a new piece for auditions; you will receive a link to sheet music and mp3s once you register for the auditions here: <https://forms.gle/CcmcJ8M4XNmj97fD6>

We have created a Facebook page to communicate for the auditions; please search for 2020 MSU Drumline Help Sessions on Facebook and ask to join.

If you are auditioning for bass drum, please choose the drum you would most like to play and learn that part (with unisons). Based on need and results, we may move you to a different drum for the second audition.

You will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Rhythmic accuracy
- Tone / quality of sound
- Dynamic control
- Technique
- Articulation
- Balance / blend

Recording Instructions / Tips:

- Please introduce yourself on the first video; assemble all videos into a playlist, and submit the link to the playlist on the google form here: <https://forms.gle/LpKpqRTVtQ3uQhBx6> .
- Please make sure that we can see your sticks / mallets / cymbals completely.
- For Double Triple, Stick Control, Triplet Grid, Sixteenth Timing, Chuggeda, and Rolls, please mark time and make sure that we can see in the video.
- When recording with a track / mp3, please play with headphones.
 - If you can also have the mp3 play in your recording so we can hear both your playing and the mp3, please do. This would involve a speaker, a second line going to the camera, etc.
 - If you don't have an easy way to do this, just play with the headphones on, and we will add the mp3 on our end. We can then hear you playing with the ensemble!
 - For that reason, it is very important to play with the specific mp3s that we list / provide.
- Pieces played without track / mp3 should not be played with an audible metronome.
- The first round can be recorded in multiple videos (one exercise per video). The second round will be recorded in multiple exercises per video / take.
- Please make every attempt to secure an instrument to record your audition.
 - Contact your local HS band director / percussion instructor to borrow an instrument
 - If you cannot find an instrument to use in your area:
 - Snare – use a practice pad
 - Tenor – use a tenor pad (for example: <https://www.steveweissmusic.com/product/vic-firth-quadropad-hhpql/marching-practice-pads>)
 - Bass – use a bass pad (**vertically only**, for example: <https://www.steveweissmusic.com/product/vic-firth-bass-drum-practice-pad/marching-practice-pads>)

- Cymbal players will need to use a pair of cymbals.
 - Please try to obtain an instrument for your own. It is important to use the instruments / pads listed. We cannot fairly evaluate all auditioning if some people are not using appropriate equipment. If you cannot locate anything to use, please contact Jon Weber at drumline@msu.edu or ask on the Facebook page, and we will do our best to help you!

If you have questions, please contact Jon Weber at drumline@msu.edu.

Requirements of the 2020 Video Audition First Round - Drumline

(All tempos listed are guidelines and can vary slightly)

Snare / Tenor:

(please play with recordings as marked; these can be found here: <https://msu.edu/~drumline/exercises/index.html>)

1. 8's - all variations, tempo 152
2. Accent Tap 1 – 124. Accent Tap 2 – 124. Accent Tap 3 – 140.
3. Double Triple - 120
4. Stick Control – tempo 120
5. Triplet Grid –140. With flams - 140. With flams on downbeat (snare only) - 140
6. Paradiddles – 140
7. Chuggeda – flams, flamtaps, pataflaflas, threes, rolls – 120. Chudechas – 116
8. Cheese – 148
9. Diddles – 136 and 156
10. Martian Mambo – with recording
11. Ditty (without recording and no headphones)
12. X – with recording
13. Y2 – solo section. For link to page, register for auditions here:
<https://forms.gle/khkp4kjLmP4rvsy6A>

Bass:

(please play with recordings as marked; these can be found here: <https://msu.edu/~drumline/exercises/index.html>)

1. 8s – all variations, tempo 152 (mark time for split!)

2. Accent Tap 1 – 124. Accent Tap 2 – 124. Accent Tap 3 – 140
3. Double Triple – 120
4. Stick Control – 120 (Unison and split)
5. Triplet Grid – 144
6. Paradiddles – with recording, 140
7. Chuggeda – with recording, flams, flam taps, threes, rolls – 120. Chudechas – 116
8. Diddles – with recording – 136 and 156
9. Martian – with recording
10. Ditty – with recording
11. X – with recording
12. Y2 – solo section. For link to page, register for auditions here:
<https://forms.gle/khkp4kJmP4rvsy6A>

Cymbals:

(please play with recordings as marked; these can be found here: <https://msu.edu/~drumline/exercises/index.html>)

1. Double Triple - 120
2. Accent Tap 1 – 124. Accent Tap 2 – 124. Accent Tap 3 – 140
3. Stick Control – 120
4. Sixteenth Timing – 120
5. Paradiddles – 140
6. Chuggeda - flams, flam taps, threes, rolls – 120. Chudechas – 116
7. Martian
8. Ditty
9. X
10. Y2 – solo section. For link to page, register for auditions here:
<https://forms.gle/khkp4kJmP4rvsy6A>

Colorguard Audition Information

The colorguard audition will consist of a video-recorded response to interview questions, a demonstration of colorguard fundamentals, and a performance of a short routine that is choreographed by the SMB Colorguard Director. Anyone auditioning will submit **THREE VIDEOS**. A breakdown of what each video should include is located below.

Video 1 (Interview):

- Introduction of yourself (First name, last name, and where you are from)
- Responses to the following questions:
 - How did you hear about/discover the SMB?
 - What is one strength and one weakness of yours?
 - How do you react to critical/constructive feedback?
 - How do you handle conflict?
 - What do you do when you disagree with someone?
 - If accepted, what would you like to gain from your SMB experience?

Video 2 (Technique):

- 50 drop spins on the right and 50 drop spins on the left
 - 90-100 BPM
 - Feet in an open second position
- 25 pole hits
 - 70-80 BPM
 - Pole straight up and down with feet in an open second position

Video 3 (Routine):

- Perform routine that is choreographed by the SMB Colorguard Director

Links to two instructional videos will be emailed to those interested in auditioning. One video will be a technique video containing a short demonstration of drop spins and pole hits. The other video will contain a detailed breakdown of the choreographed routine. **The link to the technique instructional video will be sent out on Friday, May 22nd. The link to the routine instructional video will be sent out on Friday, June 26th.** To ensure you are included on the email list, be sure to have registered for an audition using the following form:

<https://forms.gle/LpKpqRTVtQ3uQhBx6>

Your colorguard audition will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Posture & Performance
- Hand Placement/Free Arms
- Technique & Execution
- Awareness of Flag Angles/Relationship Between Flag and Body
- Lower Body Placement/Awareness
- Timing & Fulfillment of Choreography

Big Ten Flag Audition Information

Individuals who wish to audition for the Big Ten Flag section will record themselves executing a set of skills that would have been taught at the live audition. Our leadership team has recorded a set of videos that will teach each of these skills. Videos will be available Monday May 4th, and you can view them using this link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1YWeRktBCKqUCpZXFtGltwXN1eicQv9NM0?usp=sharing>

Our Big Ten Flag section leader, Alex Pomaville (pomavi11@msu.edu), and squad leader, Claire McPherson (mcphe139@msu.edu), are available for questions and feedback during your learning/practicing process. They want to help you do your best! Please reach out to them via email, and they will help set up time for a virtual feedback session.

For your audition, you will submit 4 videos, one for each of the following skills:

- 30 yard sprint, 2 times
- Toe-Knee-Toe-Heel, Breakdown Drill (2 times for each leg, 16 counts total, quarter note = 124)
- 16 counts of Mark Time (quarter note = 124)
- 8 counts Forward March (8 to 5) into 16 counts Prance (quarter note = 156)

These are all skills that will be reviewed again in preseason. You should do your very best to perfect them as well as you can. **Your audition will be evaluated using the following criteria:** posture, body control, timing, foot/leg technique, physical fitness, overall visual performance.

