

Essential Marching Music and Visual **FUN**damntals for:

- ❑ Woodwinds
- ❑ Brass
- ❑ Percussion

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MARCHING BAND



Purpose of this Clinic...

- Review and present new approaches to marching fundamentals
- Make “basics” *fun*, not a chore

Why are fundamentals important?

Fundamentals...

- ...are the building blocks for performance success.
- ...help band members to master playing & marching techniques.
- ...aid band members in learning the music and drills.
- ...determine how a band looks and sounds.



Fundamentals Formula

Posture

Breathing

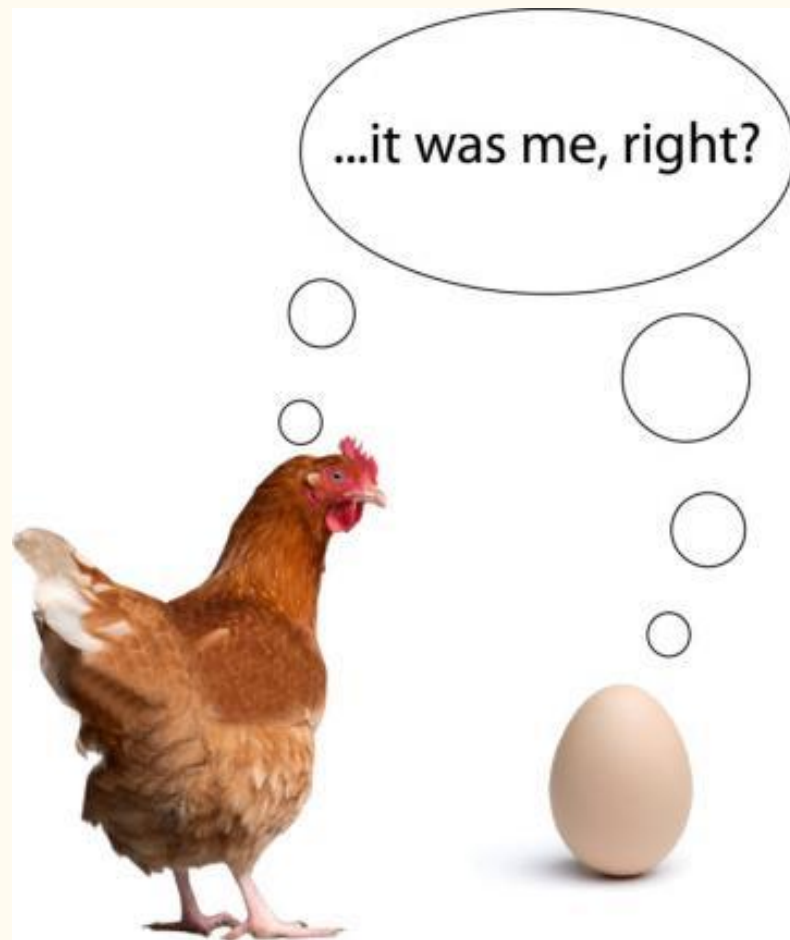
Audiation

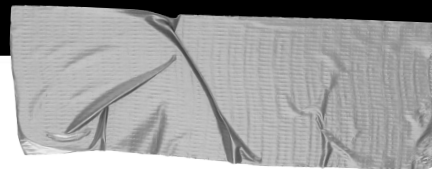
Execution

Which Came First?

Should you first teach:

- *visual* fundamentals, or
- *musical* fundamentals?
- At the same time?
- The **Key** is to be systematic, thorough and patient





Where to begin?

Posture is the fundamental element of a band's visual and musical success, and is the foundation of quality band, parade and military marching programs.

- **The 5 Points of Alignment**
Ankles, Knees, Hips, Shoulders, Ears
- **Student Success**
The above 5-point checklist can be used both outdoors and indoors (with slight modifications indoors).
- **Posture = Excellence**

The Ready Position Verbal Command: ‘Stand By’

This allows performers to stand where they are relaxed and ready to hear instructions during rehearsal. This position is achieved by:



- **Feet** – Apart at shoulder length, with equal weight distribution through both feet, naturally angled out
- **Head & Eyes** – Forward looking straight and slightly upward to drum major
- **Arms/Hands (with instrument)** – Based on individual instrument

The Full Attention Position

1. **Feet:** Heels and toes together, with equal weight distribution through both feet.
2. **5-point Checklist:**
 - a. Ankles, Knees, Hips, Shoulders, Ears all aligned with one another.
3. **Head:** The head should rest comfortably atop the body in alignment with the performer's chin. Eyes should be focused forward, 10 degrees above the horizon, toward the drum major.



4. **Arms/Hands:**
 - a. Woodwinds: Forearms parallel to the ground.
 - b. Brass: Triceps parallel to ground. Forearms form letter A.
 - c. Battery: Sticks / mallets on drums specific to each instrument.
5. **Common Mistakes??**

Horns Up and Down

- **Horns Up Position**
 - Preparing to play and breathe
- **Horns Down Position**
 - Preparing to rest
- **How to achieve uniformity?**
 - Define individual instrument hold
- **Common Mistakes??**





Marking Time

(Breathing and Moving as an Ensemble)

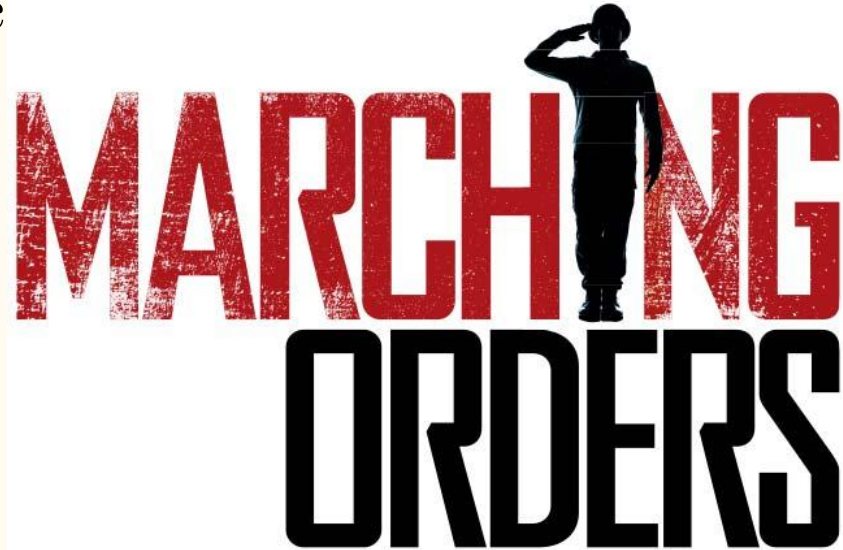


- **Marking Time**

- Defines unified pulse - subdivide using macro and micro beats
- Prepares members for combining playing music and marching drill

- **Types of Marching**

- Consider moving in time with music prior to marching
- Define basics block form
- Define first step/Heal defines pulse
- Forward March, Backward March, Slides, 'crabbing' for drumline, Halt



Tracking...

- Basic marching in block form while playing exercises and show music segments
- Reinforces visual and music fundamentals
- Reinforces timing and musical issues
- Allows directors and staff to isolate performance issues

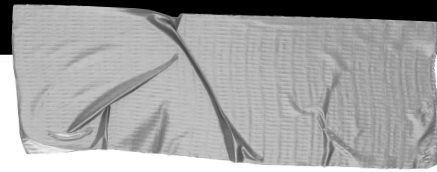


Playing Fundamentals
for
Woodwinds,
Brass,
and
Marching Percussion



**KEEP
CALM
AND**

LET THE MUSIC PLAY!



Where to begin?

Breathing, Audiation and Singing are the main elements of superior musical performance.

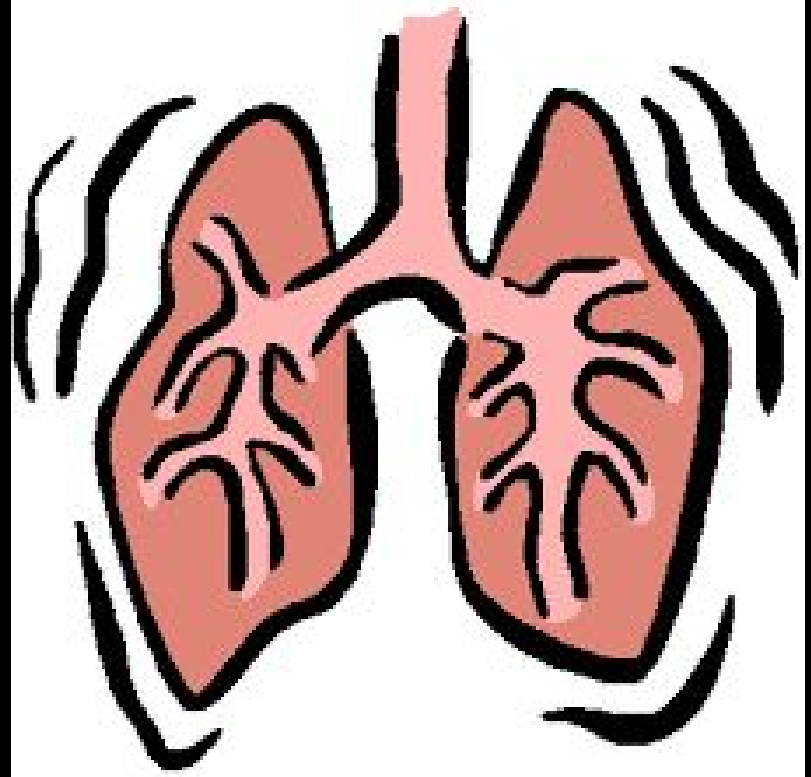
THESE APPLY TO DRUMMERS, TOO!

- ➔ **Breathing**
The key to all playing and moving
- ➔ **Audiation**
Hearing music in our heads before we play it, as a means of thinking ahead about the music to ensure note accuracy.
- ➔ **Singing**
Essential for tone, pitch, rhythm, timing....

Wind Techniques

Order of Operations

- **Breathing**
 - Define breathing exercises
 - Consider buzzing exercises
- **Articulation**
 - Brass – Da-Da-Da
 - Clarinets – Dee-Dee-Dee
 - Saxophones – Doo-Doo-Doo
- **Audiate**
- **Sing**
- **Execute/Play**



Types of Brass Exercises

(Only use exercises relevant to your program)

1. Legato/Long Tones
2. Lip Slurs/Dexterity
3. Articulation/Rhythm
4. Chords/Tuning



Playing Fundamentals for Marching Percussion



Simple Steps



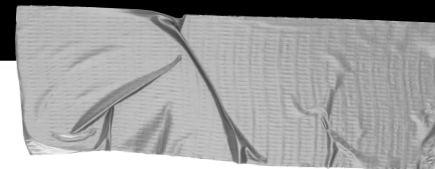
1. Grip
(traditional,
matched)
2. Strokes (basic,
downstroke)
3. Playing
Position

Types of Battery Exercises

(Only use exercises relevant to your program)

1. Legatos
2. Accent to Tap
3. Double Beat/Diddle
4. Triple Beat/Diddle





Closing

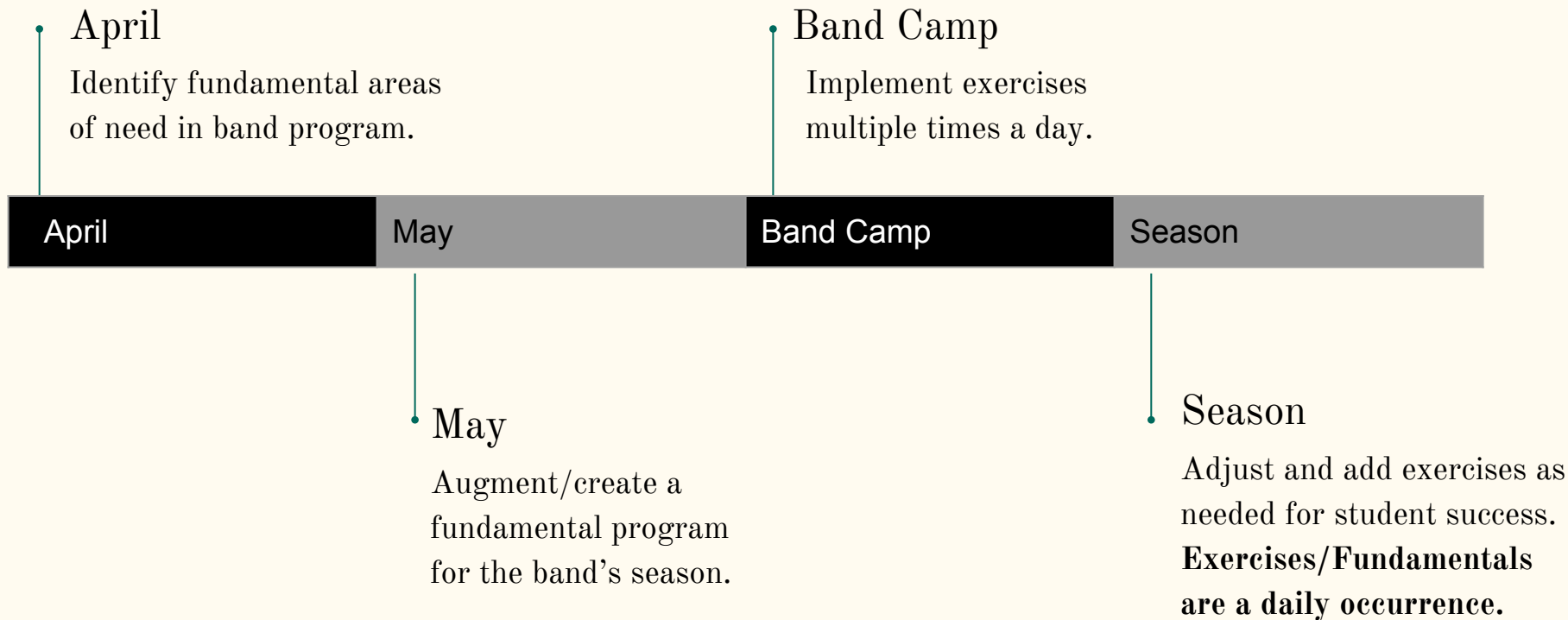
Build confidence around your members through the Fundamentals Checklist:

- **Posture**
- **Breathing**
- **Audiation**
- **Execution**
- **What's next?**

Apply these fundamentals to your marching band music and drills.

Fundamentals Time Table

(Remember, fundamentals are a daily requirement)



How To Implement Basics When You Need To Learn The Show?

- How to find the balance...ideas and suggestions
- Consider talent/experience of the performer and assess your timetable-**PLAN**
- Work to establish fundamentals at band camp and move onto music and drill
- Fundamentals “should” happen at every rehearsal, but the reality is.....
- Consider using your show’s problem sections for basics and warm-up





Good luck!

We hope these tips will help you deliver a memorable marching band experience for you and your students.

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