2020 Carolina Band
New Member Audition Instructions

Welcome! We are delighted that you are interested in joining the University of South Carolina Marching Band, “The Mighty Sound of the Southeast.”

Incoming students are required to submit a brief audition video in order to be considered for membership in the band. Please do not stress about the process! We want you to relax and demonstrate whether you have the skills necessary to have a successful and exciting experience in the Carolina Band. Follow these instructions and see the “Frequently Asked Questions” section below. If you still have more questions, please e-mail uscbands@mozart.sc.edu or call (803) 777-4278. We are here to help you!

1. Prepare for your audition – You will need to play any 2-3 minute solo that sounds great. It can be a solo, an etude, something from a method book, or even an excerpt of your band music. Your band director can help you choose the best selection. Also, you should prepare your part for our fight song, Step to the Rear (see following pages for sheet music). For Step to the Rear choose whichever part fits you the best and play in cut time at half note=132-136. Take only the 2nd ending after measure 40, and play to the end.

2. Make your video – Using your computer, tablet, phone, or video camera, record yourself facing the camera and playing the required music. Be careful not to put the camera too close to you so that the sound is not distorted. It’s best to put both pieces into one video, but if you make separate videos, that’s OK. Just be sure to send us both links. Do not worry about what you wear for the video. You are evaluated on how you sound, not how you look!

3. Upload to YouTube – Upload your video to YouTube and make it “unlisted” (not “public” or “private.” Include your first and last name in the description.

4. Complete the online form – Go to this form: https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/music/ensembles/usc_bands/athletic_bands/carolina_band/videoaudition.php. Fill out the information requested. Copy the URL from the address bar for your YouTube video and paste it into the appropriate field. You will receive a confirmation e-mail when we receive your video link and information.
5. Get ready to join the excitement! – Review of videos will begin March 1, 2020, and notification of admission will begin April 1, 2020. We will continue to review submissions throughout the spring and summer, and auditions will continue to be accepted as space permits.

Frequently Asked Questions

What should I play for my audition? You can play any solo or etude for your instrument. You can even play an excerpt or excerpts from some of your band music. Choose something that demonstrates your very best playing, and try to demonstrate both technical and lyrical playing. You should play accurately, with all the correct notes and rhythms, along with expressive dynamics and a steady tempo.

Do I need an accompanist? NO. If you play something accompanied, you can simply play it without the accompaniment. If you DO have an accompanist, that is perfectly acceptable, but won’t factor into your score.

Which part should I play on “Step to the Rear”? Choose the part that fits you best. It is better to play a lower part very well than struggle with high notes in an upper part.

Do I need to play a marching instrument in my audition? NO. Tuba and baritone players can play a concert or marching instrument. Mellophone players may audition on French horn, but preference will be given to those who audition on mellophone.

Does the music need to be memorized? NO. Memorization is not a component of your evaluation.

Does it matter what I wear for my video? Wear anything you like – you do not need to dress formally. You are not being evaluated on your appearance!

How am I being evaluated? Members of the Carolina Band staff will view your video and evaluate you based on tone quality, technique, expression, and rhythmic/pitch accuracy.

What is the deadline for sending my video? Priority will be given to students who submit auditions prior to April 8. Auditions will continue to be accepted as space permits.

Do I need a letter of recommendation? No, it is not required. However, your director or teacher may submit one on your behalf. It should be e-mailed to uscbands@mozart.sc.edu.

How many students do you accept? Though a large majority of the 2018 Carolina Band is returning for 2019, we currently have openings in all sections!

May I audition on more than one instrument? Yes. If you are accepted on more than one instrument, we will contact you to discuss which you would like to play.

How and when will I hear if I made it? Notification of admission will begin April 15, 2019. You will be notified by e-mail.

What happens next? Your acceptance e-mail will include instructions for registration, as well as a complete schedule of events for the fall.

Can my friend from the same school and I be in a video together? NO. Only you should be in your video.
Step to the Rear

2016

Energetic

Alto Sax.

arr. Gordon (Dick) Goodwin

© SCCMP, Inc. 1974
Energetic

Go Cocks

Step to the Rear

Tenor Sax.

arr. Gordon (Dick) Goodwin

© SCCMP, Inc. 1974
Step to the Rear
2016
arr. Gordon (Dick) Goodwin

Energetic

\[ \text{Trumpet 2} \]

Go Cocks

\[ \text{"Carolina" Spell Out} \]

© SCCMP, Inc. 1974
Step to the Rear

Trumpet 3

Energetic

2016

arr. Gordon (Dick) Goodwin

© SCCMP, Inc. 1974
Step to the Rear

Energetic

2016

arr. Gordon (Dick) Goodwin

Baritone

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