

Miami University Marching Band
2015 MUS 100E Syllabus



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Prelude...

Music occupies a special place in our lives for it reaches inside and elicits feelings and emotions in our minds and spirits in a way no other medium can replicate. Whether it is the rousing strains of a march, the familiarity of a favorite, or the quiet presence of a choir anthem, such is the power and nature of music.

It is my pleasure and privilege to welcome you to the 2015 edition of the Miami University Marching Band! You have become a member of one of the longest serving organizations on campus and one with a terrific history and a legacy of some amazing individuals. Welcome back and welcome aboard!

History

The Miami University Marching Band had been around in part since the early 20th century when it was part of the Men's Glee Club however it became an official university ensemble when A.D. Lekvold was hired as its first faculty director. He was director of bands from 1936 to the 1960s. In 1951 Nicholas Poccia came to Miami from the Eastman School of Music as the new horn professor. In 1953 he began to volunteer his time and assist Lekvold with the marching band. During the 1950s the band numbered around 96 and would take two road trips a year. It was around this time the Shakerettes, the drill team, and majorettes appeared.

Nicholas Poccia became director of the marching band in 1960 and the band's size steadily increased to 200. In 1968 the Center for Performing Arts opened and became the band's home. In 1971, the Miami Marching Machine was created as a mascot of the band. The Marching Machine was a tank-like structure placed over a VW bug, and appeared with the band throughout the decade. The Marching Machine remained an integral part of the marching band until 1979.

In 1978, Dr. Jack Liles became director and the band adopted a "corps-style" marching identity. The colorguard was introduced to the band, keeping with current trends in marching bands around the nation. During Dr. Liles' tenure, the band began to expand its performances to include exhibitions throughout the state and region including multiple appearances by the band at Cincinnati Bengals and Buffalo Bills' games. In the spring of 1999, Mr. David Shaffer, our previous Assistant Director and Chief Composer/Arranger, was appointed director of the marching band and he continued the excellent traditions of the Miami Marching Band and helped cement the band's status as one of the finest student organizations on campus. Under Mr. Shaffer's direction, the MUMB made its first appearance at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in 2003.

Dr. Stephen Lytle was appointed the fifth director of the Miami Marching Band in May 2009. Dr. Lytle began his teaching career in the public schools of North Carolina and has served as Assistant Director of Bands at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He holds degrees from the University of North Carolina, Northwestern University, and University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. He is an accomplished arranger with over two hundred-fifty titles and has written for many high schools and universities. In his short time, the band has performed with jazz legend, Benny Golson, has appeared at the 2010 Frozen Four,

the 2010 MAC Football Championship, and the 2011 GoDaddy.com Bowl in Mobile, Alabama, the 2011 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and in 2013, the 57th Presidential Inaugural Parade. Dr. Lytle also serves as conductor of the Miami University Symphony Band and as Associate Conductor of the Fillmore Wind Band of Cincinnati.

Instructional Staff

Director Dr. Stephen Lytle
 Visual Coordinator Mr. Michael Neubert
 Battery Instructor Mr. David Watkins
 Frontline Instructor..... Mr. Alex McIntosh
 Colorguard Instructor..... Mr. Tim Coady

Operational Staff

Associate Director Mr. Kent Covert
 Assistant Director Mr. Matthew Evins
 Student Staff..... Amy Roth
 Student Staff..... Emily Grizzell

Student Leadership

Field Commanders

John Barrett
 Miwako (Miwa) Hayama
 Sam Portzer

Band Board

Carson Engle, President
 Emily Rast, VPS
 Nic Shirley, VPP
 Victor Magro, Secretary
 Sam Carver, Treasurer
 Julie McDonald, Historian
 John Barrett, Anthony Rapp

Section Leaders

Flutes: Dustin Deao, Hayley Britt
 Clarinets: Michael Wilson, Joseph Cadle

Alto Saxes: Erin Williams, Emma Shaw
Trumpets: Riley Suter, Kevin Kraus
Mellophones: Kayla Cavano
Trombones: Nick Herrmann, Luke Stoner
Baritone/TSax: Suzette Grindle
Tubas: Ryan Hickey
Battery: Tim Bresnehan
Pit: Heather Sounik, Joey Kohlman

Feature Twirler
Lianna Carlson

Guard Captains
Bryce Stamper
Lindsey Christolear

Shakerettes Captains
Kayla Brighter
Jillian Krapf
Elizabeth Ragland

Greek Organizations
Kappa Kappa Psi: Carson Engle, President
Phi Mu Alpha: Eric Kaufman, President
Tau Beta Sigma: Nick Herrmann, President
Sigma Alpha Iota: _____, President
Delta Omicron: _____, President

Rehearsal Procedures

1. All rehearsals are required.
2. Rehearsals will take place at Tappan Field. All M-F rehearsals will begin promptly at 4:15 pm and conclude at 5:45 pm.
3. **Never assume a rehearsal is cancelled because of inclement weather.** All weather related announcements are communicated electronically.
4. Every student should have the necessary items including dot sheets, music, lyre, mouthpiece, instrument, flag, etc. at all rehearsals.
5. Students are expected to dispose of trash in the containers provided at the rehearsal site.
6. Students using school-owned instruments are expected to assist in securing those instruments after rehearsal.

Performance Procedures

1. All performances are required.

2. For attendance purposes, a performance start time is defined as the first recorded event of the day.
3. Information regarding performance dates, times, and places will be announced in rehearsals, distributed on the listserv, and posted via various social media.
4. **Never assume a performance is canceled because of inclement weather.**
5. Every student should have all necessary items, including instrument, mouthpiece, uniform, music, flag, etc. at all performances.
6. During games, **only uniformed band members** will be allowed in the designated band seats.
7. During games, members must remain with their section while in the stands.
8. Cheering at games as an organization is vital to generating spirit and enthusiasm of the student body, alumni, and fans. Students are expected to stand, participate loudly and enthusiastically, and in a positive spirit while paying attention to the conductor and game situations.
9. Students are not excused from performances until dismissed by one of the directors or a designated staff member.
10. All students must follow uniform wearing guidelines for the uniform worn at performances.

Attendance

1. Attendance at rehearsals and performances is required. Your grade is solely based on attendance.
2. Attendance is recorded only when you've scanned your QR code. This is your official record of your attendance. Once you've arrived on site (rehearsal or performance) then it is your responsibility to ensure that your attendance is properly recorded.
3. If it is necessary to miss a rehearsal then students should notify the band office at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance by completing and submitting the request online.
Remember that a request is not the same as approval.
4. Students will receive notification from the band office informing them if the absence will be excused or unexcused. ALL absences, excused and unexcused, will be recorded and considered in grading, when selecting traveling bands, and leadership positions.
5. In cases of illness or emergency that prevents twenty-four hour notice, the student must contact Mr. Matt Evins (513-795-9100, text message preferred) no later than 4:00 PM. Please be prepared to provide appropriate documentation on why you've missed.
6. Absences will not be excused for group project meetings or other activities that can, and should, be scheduled around class times. Likewise, exams and other class activities will not be excused without a note from the Professor asking that you be excused from our class to attend something associated with their class. Any communication coming from your professor should be given to us no less than one week in advance. We will never require you to miss other classes to attend a band activity without communicating with the Professor of the class(es) you will miss.
 - a. MASS EXAMS: Students enrolled in a large science lectures and other courses are often scheduled to take their exams at a common time that can conflict with

rehearsal. This is excused but you STILL must fill out an online request so we may properly track your attendance. Do not assume that we know everything regarding your academic schedule.

- b. **STUDY SESSIONS:** These are not considered normal class meetings. Students wanting to attend a study session will need to submit an absence request as with any other request.
7. **Excused absences will not be granted for the following: work (including serving as staff for HS marching bands), outside musical performances or engagements, group projects, trips home, high school homecomings, high school band trips, high school band rehearsals, concert tickets, appointments scheduled during our class. Absences relating to a significant family event will be handled on an individual basis but will typically not be granted if they do not involve an immediate family member (parent or sibling).**
8. Should circumstances require you to miss a performance then you will need to submit a request a minimum of two weeks before the scheduled event. **Submitting a request should not be confused with automatic permission to miss the performance.** Dr. Lytle ultimately decides upon all requests. Requests within the two-week window can be subject to a grade penalty. Instances of emergency will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Additional documentation may be requested prior or following the event.
9. An unexcused absence will generate an email message alerting you of this. You have 48 hours to reconcile this matter if you feel there has been an error made.

Grading

1. The academic grade is the overall mark given in relation to the student's preparation, participation, attendance, and adherence to the guidelines outlined in this handbook.
2. The following guide outlines attendance vis-à-vis grading:
 - The 1st unexcused absence from rehearsalGrade lowered to "A-"
 - The 2nd unexcused absence from rehearsalGrade lowered to "B"
 - The 3rd unexcused absence from rehearsal.....Grade lowered to "B-"
 - The 4th unexcused absence from rehearsalGrade lowered to "C"
 - The 5th unexcused absence from rehearsalGrade lowered to "D"
 - The 6th unexcused absence from rehearsal
 - If before the drop period, the student is automatically withdrawn from the course-"W"
 - If after the drop period, the student will earn an "F" for the course or can both be withdrawn and giving a failing grade "WF".
 - Three tardiesone absence
 - Every two tardies following.....one absence
 - Leaving rehearsal early without prior notice.....one absence
 - Any unexcused absence from a performance (including leaving before a performance is over)
 - If before the drop period, the student is automatically withdrawn from the course-"W"

- If after the drop period, the student will be both withdrawn from the course with a failing grade “WF”.

Issues surrounding other concerns involving preparation or conduct will be addressed on an individual basis with appropriate action handled by Dr. Lytle.

As with any policy, there will be extraordinary circumstances that arise. It is important that these special conflicts be brought to the attention of the director as soon as possible. All circumstances of this nature will be handled on an individual basis with the director.

It cannot be stressed enough that your diligence in communication is the single most important aspect in maintaining your grade. Failure to respond in a timely or adequate fashion to inquiries regarding an absence will lower your grade. Yes, it is possible to get a B, C, or even fail the course.

Music and Drill

1. All music and drill is available online through the band website. You may access it by visiting www.miamioh.edu/mumb and click on the members’ links.
2. It is expected that all members will print their own copies of music and their dot sheets and will have all necessary materials at rehearsals.
3. You are expected to have a lyre and flip folder while learning music and for performance in the stands.
4. The use of smartphones is acceptable in lieu of printed materials provided that it serves as a adequate substitution. Common sense should reign in regards to appropriate use.
5. Memorization of all music is required for field performances.

Uniforms

1. The uniform is the single, most visible identifying element of the band. In the eyes of the public and the University, the uniform marks you as an official ambassador. Therefore, you are always “on stage” while in uniform, even when you may not be performing at the moment. The following guidelines represent the awareness we have of that unique role and service we provide to our University.
2. Each student is responsible for the care of his/her uniform. Each uniform part is numbered and records are kept as to which parts are issued to each student.
3. It is the responsibility of the section leader and field commanders to monitor members’ appearance including glove and shoe condition as well as full uniform.
4. Students will be charged for any damage done to the uniform as a result of carelessness or if they fail to return the uniform by the designated time. Failure to return a uniform will result in a charge put against your bursar account for the full, new replacement cost of the uniform.
5. Uniforms are to be worn in one of two ways: with coats zipped and collars closed or carrying the coat with both pants straps over the shoulders. In most cases, an announcement will indicate how the uniform is to be worn.

6. Uniform shakos should be worn such that the brim is aligned with the eyebrows. When carrying the shako, it should be carried such that the plum faces upward and not used as a bucket to carry various personal belongings (music, keys, etc.).
7. The current MUMB t-shirt should be worn underneath the coat at all performances when the band is to be in full uniform. This is the only t-shirt allowed while in uniform.
8. Should weather conditions necessitate that coats be removed, an announcement will be made to remove the coats. In this case, coats should be folded neatly and placed on the seat behind you (not thrown on the ground).
9. When in uniform, all hair must be worn so it is off the collar and inside the uniform hat.
10. Excessive jewelry and/or make-up should not be worn while in uniform.
11. Do not trade uniform parts, and do not make alterations to the uniforms. Any problems with uniform fitting or repair should be brought to the attention of the Band Staff.
12. The official shoe of the Miami University Marching Band is the Cesario MTX. All shoes must be completely white with no other color visible including the sole and no decorative stitching. Guard, Twirlers and Shakos use their own shoes that coordinate with their costumes. Shoes can be purchased during band camp.
13. All members of the wind block are required to have white gloves. Cymbals, guard, and marching brass use specially designed gloves for their applications. Gloves can be purchased during band camp.
14. Following a performance the uniform should be hung properly with special attention to the creases in the pants. Uniforms should be hung in a manner that promotes airing out the uniform and, if needed, drying. Do not put a wet uniform into a closet where air circulation is a problem.

School Instruments

1. Students using school owned instruments are responsible for the care, safety, and repair of the instrument while they have it checked out.
2. Necessary accessories (necks, bits, mouthpieces, etc.) will be provided for school owned instruments and must be returned with the instrument.
3. Students will be charged for any damage done to the instrument as a result of carelessness or if they fail to return the instrument by the designated time. Failure to return an instrument will result in a charge put against your bursar account for the full, new replacement cost of the instrument.
4. Any necessary repairs must be made aware to a staff member so that appropriate and timely action may be taken to fix any problem.

Instrument Repair

1. Instruments (school-owned and personal) in need of repair must be left in the band office by the end of rehearsal with a completed instrument repair form, which may be found in the band office, attached.
2. The instrument will be taken to a repair shop and returned to the band office.

3. Repair charges on personal instruments are the responsibility of the student and are payable to Miami University Marching Band and must be paid before the instrument will be returned to the student. If direct payment can be arranged with the repair shop then that can be handled between the student and shop.
4. Students who fail to pay for repairs within the fall semester will have their bursar's account charged for the repairs.

2015 Miami University Marching Band Performance Schedule

Mandatory Performances:

Saturday, August 22 nd	Yager Stadium new student kick-off
Saturday, September 5 th	v. Presbyterian (Band Day)
Friday, September 18 th	Homecoming Pep Rally/Parade
Saturday, September 19 th	v. Cincinnati (Homecoming)
Saturday, September 26 th	@ Hamilton High School contest
Saturday, October 17 th	v. N. Illinois (Family Weekend)
Saturday, October 24 th	@ Centerville High School contest
Thursday, October 29 th	v. Buffalo
Saturday, November 7 th	v. Eastern Michigan
Saturday, November 14 th	v. Akron
Friday, December 4 th	MAC Championship (Detroit, tentative)

A detailed schedule for the day's activities is usually distributed one week prior to the event. Typical game days are seven hours in length, dependent on pre- and post-game responsibilities and length of game. The two HS exhibitions will be preceded by a short home practice before departing for the site.

Ice Band

We will perform at one home hockey game both in the stands and on the ice in a marching show. This is a volunteer event but a very popular one and one that generates a lot of buzz and publicity for the MUMB. Details to come.

Post Season Travel

The MUMB season is tied to the football season. In the event that the team is successful enough to extend play into the post season then we are expected to perform as well. As such, your participation is expected. Details regarding the post-season outlook evolve over the course of the semester and will be communicated to you as they become clearer.

Pep Bands

The MUMB is the primary ensemble in the Athletic Band program but is not the only one. We support a vibrant Pep Band program that provides music and excitement for men's and women's basketball, volleyball, and ice hockey. The band is a highly valued and integral part of the game experience-just ask any hockey fan! Furthermore, there is ample opportunity for post-season travel (and you get a per diem!). There is academic credit for participation and rehearsals are once a week. More information will be provided once the semester begins.

University Representation

As a member of Miami University Marching Band, students are an extension of the University, the community and the state. Because of the number of public performances on and off campus, each member must exemplify the quality of Miami University at all times. For that reason, there will be no smoking in public, drinking of alcoholic beverages, use of illegal drugs or profanity by any member of the Marching Band while participating in a Band activity or while in uniform.

A 'Band' activity is defined as the period of time beginning with the report time and ending with dismissal. In the case of out-of-town trips, this is from the time the buses are loaded on campus until the time the buses are unloaded on campus at the conclusion of the trip. Failure to comply constitutes grounds for immediate dismissal from the organization and could result in a Miami Code of Conduct violation.

Each band member is responsible for both the integrity and the consequences of his or her own actions. However, individual actions impact everyone in the organization and in an age of high accountability, that impact can be swift and severe. When engaging in an activity representing the Miami Band and the University, band members must follow the highest standards of honesty, integrity and fairness. It is imperative that no member participates in any activity while on campus, or while engaging in a band activity, that is (or gives the appearance of being) improper, illegal, or immoral, or that could in any way harm or embarrass Miami Bands or Miami University. Furthermore, no student shall engage in any activity that can be construed as reflecting malice or bias against another individual or group of individuals. The level of accountability for our activity is high given the profile of the organization, its role and function, and the responsibility to provide safe and equitable experiences to the membership.

Your Statement of Agreement

The Miami University Marching Band is composed of dedicated students striving for the highest standards of musical and performance excellence. The cohesiveness and unity of the organization make it unique in that individuals not only have the opportunity of creating and generating their own excitement and enthusiasm, but also becoming part of the entire group's strengths and capabilities.

By checking-out and accepting a Miami Marching Band uniform, members acknowledge that they have read this document, accept the responsibilities defined in the document, and agree to abide by all of the rules contained in the document. Members reconfirm this commitment to follow the rules each time they leave campus on a band -sponsored trip.

Contact Information

Miami University Marching Band
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mumb@miamioh.edu

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lytleasc@miamioh.edu
Office (513) 529-9739
Cell (919) 414-6934
Office hours by appt.

Mr. Kent Covert..... covertka@miamioh.edu
Cell (513) 314-6783

Mr. Matthew Evins matthew.evins@miamoh.edu
Cell (513) 795-9100

Mr. Michael Neubert..... michaeljneubert@me.com
Cell (513) 280-0323

David Watkins Cell (859) 420-5500

Alex McIntosh..... Cell (513) 252-6669

Tim Coady..... Cell (314) 304-5457

School Songs

Miami March Song (Fight Song)

words by R.H. Burke

Chorus:

Love and honor to Miami,
Our college old and grand,
Proudly we shall ever hail thee,
Over all the land.

Alma mater now we praise thee,
Sing joyfully this lay,
Love and honor to Miami,
Forever and a day.

Old Miami, New Miami (Alma Mater)

Original verse by A.H. Upham

Old Miami from thy hillcrest,
Thou hast watched the decades roll,
While thy sons have quested from thee,
Sturdy hearted, pure of soul.

Chorus (between each verse and at
end)

Old Miami! New Miami!
Days of old and days to be;
Weave the story of thy glory,
Our Miami, here's to thee!