

# *Troopers Brass Auditions 2010*

## **Introduction**

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for The Troopers brass section for 2010. The following packet contains all the information you will need to prepare an audition for one of the many satellite audition camps as well as a FAQ page that will hopefully help answer any questions that you may have. Please RSVP on the Troopers website for one of the audition camps so we know that you will be joining us. A full audition calendar and camp schedule can be found in the back of this packet.

You can RSVP for an audition camp through the following link:  
<http://members.troopersdrumcorps.org/rsvp.htm>

## **The Audition**

Your audition will consist of 3 main parts: a playing audition, a visual audition, and a visual/playing audition. The playing audition should only take about 5-10 minutes and you should have the following prepared:

1. **2 musical excerpts from a solo piece(s).** One demonstrating your **lyrical** playing ability and one demonstrating your **technical** facility. Each should be no longer than one minute each. We want you to show us your very **BEST** playing so only pick pieces that you know you sound like a million bucks on.
2. **2 exercises** that can be found for each particular instrument in the back of this packet. These exercises are straight out of our technique book and we will want to hear these from everyone.

**\*Note regarding audition music\*:** We are not interested in hearing selections from your marching band show nor do we want to hear jazz band parts. If you are having trouble finding a piece to prepare, we have compiled a list of possible selections that would be appropriate that can be found in the back of this packet.

## **The Rating Process**

After your audition the staff will assign you a rating of a 1,2 or 3. These ratings are mainly to help you understand where you fit in and what you need to work on. The basic breakdown of the rating system is as follows;

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Rating 1</b> | Indicated that your skill level is at a high enough level to earn a position in the 2010 Troopers brass section, provided that you are able to attend camps, maintain your practice and skill level, and are able to stay up to date on your tuition and fee payments. |
|-----------------|--|

**Rating 2** You are a good performer, however, there are still some areas of your skill levels you need to work on to be offered a position within the brass section for 2010. You will be informed of these areas and be invited to attend round two of auditions. You will be re-evaluated at that time.

**Rating 3** Your current skill level is not what is required to be offered a position in the brass section for the 2010 season. You will be informed of these areas and are encouraged to continue to practice and progress in those areas and re-audition the following season.

\*\*You will receive feedback via the 2010 Horn Line Audition Sheet that you will receive at the end of the audition session.

## Audition Advice

- **DON'T BE NERVOUS!** Even though you may find the audition process stressful, we are rooting for you to do your best!
- **Come Prepared!** Prepare for this audition like you would any other professional performing ensemble. Not only will you be prepared give us the best look at your talents, it will also help you combat your nerves when auditioning!
- If you make a mistake during your audition, **KEEP GOING!** An important aspect of drum corps is how mature you are when it comes to recovering from a mistake. If you must stop and start over, take a deep breath, and continue as though nothing happened.
- Do not try to wow us with playing your audition pieces at break neck speed. The things that we look for most is **a great sound, great time and a great attitude.**

## FAQ

### (1) What should I bring to auditions?

First of all, bring a great attitude! Please make sure that you remember your music as well. If you are able to do so please bring your own mouthpiece, if need be you can borrow one of ours but you will most likely be comfortable on your own.

**Trumpet:** If possible, I suggest that you bring your own horn and mouthpiece. If need be you can borrow one of ours but you will almost certainly be more comfortable on your personal instrument and mouthpiece.

**Mellophone & French Horn:** If you are a French Horn player and you plan on playing a French Horn during your audition, you need to bring your own horn. We will also at some point during your audition have you play on a mellophone with a mellophone mouthpiece to check your sound. We do not allow our performers to play on French horn mouthpieces with an adapter during the season. If you plan on playing mellophone during your audition, it is up to you if you wish to bring your own horn. We will have one available for you to use.

**Baritone & Euphonium & Tuba:** If you plan on playing trombone during your audition you need to bring your own horn. You will be asked to at some point during your audition to play on a baritone/euphonium and play a couple simple scales so we can check your ability to play an instrument with valves. If you play baritone/euphonium you are welcome to use one of our instruments as these are generally difficult to travel with. Again, you may want to use your own mouthpiece.

## **(2) What are you looking for at my audition?**

Musically we are looking for the following: A good sound/tone, mature technical proficiency. Also musicality, intervallic control and finger dexterity and range are all things that we are looking for in the performers for the Troopers brass section.

Visually we are looking for the following: A positive attitude, the ability to adapt and learn new techniques, a good sense of time and good flexibility.

Information regarding personal items for weekend camps will be available at a later time.

## **(3) What should I expect at my audition?**

It will be quite simple and stress-less. You will have 20-30 minutes to warm up on your own in a separate room, and then we will have you play for us individually. We will want to ask you a few questions about yourself and your back ground just to get to know you a bit then we will have you play your prepared selections, required audition exercises and demonstrate your range if you are interested in a lead spot. We will then discuss your schedule and availability throughout the season. You can also choose at the end to take a couple minutes to ask a few questions you may have about the Troopers or auditions.

## **Suggested Audition Pieces**

### **Tuba:**

- Blazhevich "70 studies for BB flat tuba"-Examples-18, 29, 30, 41
- Tyrell "40 advanced studies for Bb bass"-Examples-6, 7, 16, 21
- Capuzzi "Andante and Rondo"
- J. Rochut-*Melodious Studies*

### **Baritone / Euphonium:**

- H.W. Tyrell -"40 Progressive Studies for Trombone (In the Bass clef)"
- H.Vomax-"Selected Studies for Baritone"
- Db Major (Pietzsch) excerpt pg 22 Adagio cantabile
- Ab Major (Gatti) excerpt pg 14 Allegro marziale
- Melodious Studies* - J. Rochut

### **Mellophone / French Horn:**

- Lyrical Studies* - G. Concone
- 60 Selected Studies* - C. Kopprasch

**Trumpet::**

Vannetelbosch #1-5

Any etudes out of the back of J.B Arban's Complete Conservatory Method

Hummel Trumpet Concerto

Arutunian Trumpet Concerto

Rustiques trumpet Concerto By Bozza

**Required Audition Exercises**

**\*Note:** Each exercises goes down 3 half steps and back up. Tempo Quarter note:112-144

**High Brass**

1

2

**Baritones/Euphoniums**

1

2

**Tuba**

1

2

## Visual Audition

You will be participating within a large group setting and evaluated on the following: A positive attitude, the ability to adapt and learn new techniques, sense of time, posture and flexibility.

The rating process will be exactly the same as the music audition, based on a rating of 1, 2, or 3. The visual audition feedback will be included on the 2010 Horn Line Audition Sheet that you will receive at the end of the audition session.

Dress appropriately for physical activity. Do not wear jeans and come equipped with the proper footwear.

## Marching/Playing Audition

At each of the audition camps you will learn a combination of basic visual and musical exercises. We will combine a few of them and evaluate your ability to adapt to the newly learned exercises as well as your ability to marry the marching and playing responsibilities.

## Video Auditions

If for some reason you are unable to attend one of the initial audition camps (satellite or otherwise), then we will expect you to send in a video audition. These can be done a number of ways, but here are a few options:

1. Video yourself doing the exercises listed below and post your video to a video hosting website, such as YouTube, Google Video, Facebook, etc.
2. Mail a copy of your video audition to the following address:

### Music Audition Videos

Kyle Thompson  
2420 N. Airport Road #9303  
Ellensburg, WA 98926

### Visual Audition Videos

Nick Benson  
712 143<sup>rd</sup> Place SW  
Lynnwood, WA 98087

On your video audition, please include the following exercises:

### Video Musical Audition:

1. **2 musical excerpts from a solo piece(s)**. One demonstrating your **lyrical** playing ability and one demonstrating your **technical** facility. Each should be no longer than one minute each. We want you to show us your very **BEST** playing so only pick pieces that you know you sound like a million bucks on.
2. **2 exercises** that can be found for each particular instrument in the **Required Audition Exercises** portion of this packet. These exercises are straight out of our technique book and we will want to hear these from everyone.

### **Video Visual Audition:**

1. **2 Basic Marching Exercises** from your band or past drum corps experience that demonstrates both your forward and backward techniques.
2. **1 Basic Exercise** demonstrating your **slide position** and **direction change** abilities.

Include a variety of camera angles, i.e. front, side, back. We want to see your timing of feet and technique from as many different angles as possible.

Also, vary the tempo of each exercise as to demonstrate your slow marching abilities as well as your upper tempo control.

### **Marching/Playing Audition:**

1. Include at least **TWO** combination exercises of your best musical and visual abilities.
  - a. Choose a simple marching exercise that demonstrates forward and backward technique, put to a long tone brass technique exercise.
  - b. Choose a simple direction change exercise and combine it with a simple brass technique exercise.

## **Schedule**

All Audition Camps are included below. More information as to specifics for each event will be released on the website at a later time.

### **November 20-22, 2009**

Friday 7:00pm - Sunday 11:00am  
Laramie Junior High School  
1355 N 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Laramie, WY

### **December 12, 2009**

9:00am-5:00pm  
Boise State University Band Room  
1910 University Dr # 1320  
Boise, ID 83725

### **December 5, 2009**

9:00am-5:00pm  
Rouse High School  
1501 Cr 271  
Leander, TX 78641  
Williamson County  
University Phone # (208) 426-1156

### **December 18-20, 2009**

Friday 7:00pm - Sunday 11:00am  
Laramie Junior High School  
1355 N 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Laramie, WY

## **Additional Information**

Continue to check the website for additional information throughout the season as many details will be updated or modified on a regular basis. <http://www.troopersdrumcorps.org/>

If you have any questions regarding your audition or the expectations, feel free to email Kyle Thompson (Brass Caption Head) at [k.thompson@troopersdrumcorps.org](mailto:k.thompson@troopersdrumcorps.org)

## 2010 Troopers Horn Line Audition Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR INSTRUMENT)

TRUMPET      MELLOPHONE      BARITONE      TUBA

### Music Assessment

		Excellent	Average	Poor	
Posture:	1	2	3	4	5
Hand Position:	1	2	3	4	5
Embouchure:	1	2	3	4	5
Breathing:	1	2	3	4	5
Tone Quality:	1	2	3	4	5
Range:	1	2	3	4	5
Articulation:	1	2	3	4	5
Flexibility:	1	2	3	4	5
Rhythm:	1	2	3	4	5
Feet Timing:	1	2	3	4	5

Brass Comments:

Brass Rating:                      I                      II                      III

