



FORTÉ

DRUM & BUGLE CORPS

Horn Line

Audition Packet

2010 Season

To the Horn Line of Forte Drum and Bugle Corps:

Forte Drum and Bugle Corps is here and I and the brass staff could not be more excited about this upcoming season, as we hope each of you are as well. By obtaining this packet you have taken the first step towards membership in this organization and all of us here wish you the best of luck throughout this process. In this audition packet you will find clearly outlined our expectations in regards to the audition process, rehearsal, materials required, equipment, and camp preparation.

Our expectations for each of you, as well as this horn line as a whole, are as high as possible as we enter this upcoming season and as we begin the audition process. That is not to say that we expect you to walk into camp able to achieve perfection but we do expect a certain attitude. It is a great honor to be a member of this horn line and your attitude during the audition experience as well as the season, should you be offered a position, should reflect this honor. It is the goal of every great horn line to turn a group of individuals on different instruments into a singular sounding brass ensemble. In order to accomplish this goal you must enter camp with a trusting and respectful attitude for each other, the staff, and our technique. If you enter with this respectful and trusting attitude you will find that we are more successful and this process becomes much more enjoyable.

Forte Drum and Bugle Corps prides itself on being a “teaching” corps. It is because of this philosophy that we as a brass staff are not only dedicated to becoming one of the great horn lines in this activity but also dedicated to making you the best brass player/teacher that you can be. That being said you must buy into the philosophy and technique presented to you at the audition camps you attend in order for us to be successful as a horn line. We are well aware that each individual auditioning for this corps is from somewhere different and may have been taught a certain way. While we respect this fact and the education you have received that has gotten you to this point, in your brass education, you need to realize that our technique is designed to guarantee our success as a horn line this season. We can not dream of a unified brass ensemble sound with out a unified technique. Please keep this in mind and enter this process with an open mind that is willing to learn and improve as a brass player and educator.

Lastly, use this packet and prepare as best you can for these auditions. I and the brass staff here at Forte Drum and Bugle Corps look forward to working with each of you over the next few months. Enjoy this process and, if offered a position, this season as well. This promises to be a landmark year for this organization and I hope that each of you looks forward to being a part of it. Please also notice that my contact information is provided and please contact me with any questions you may have. Best of luck!

Sincerely,

Andrew Lee

Brass Caption Head, Forte Drum and Bugle Corps

brass@fortecorps.org

www.fortecorps.org

(281)237-1769

The Audition Process

By receiving this packet you have started on an amazing journey that will hopefully grant you the privilege of membership in the horn line at Forte Drum and Bugle Corps this season. Many people who would love to participate in this activity never get to because of self-doubt. Before we can move on I feel it is my job to tell you that you will never know until you try and you may just be better than you think!

In the next segment of this audition packet we will cover the requirements and the expectations placed on you throughout this audition process:

Attitude:

Each auditionee will be held to the same high standard in this regard especially. Respect for each other, this corps, the staff of Forte, and the technique you will be taught is paramount. This horn line has been and will continue to be a team and family and any attitude contrary to that will not be tolerated.

Ability:

Of course we as a staff will be judging you based on the abilities you present at the camps. Musical and visual ability will not be the only abilities on which you will be judged. You will also be judged on TEACH-ability. Meaning how you respond to instruction. Talent is a vital part of success but what you do with that talent is equally important. It is also important to mention that any wind player, including woodwinds, is welcome to audition and that with the right attitude any person can make this line.

Attendance:

As we move on in this progress attendance will play a huge role in our success or failure this season as a horn line. Since this is a team activity if a player in the horn line is unable or unwilling to be at a camp they have registered to attend the team suffers. We of course understand that emergencies will happen and school conflicts will also happen but we must be notified as soon as possible in order to ensure that you will not be penalized. In regards to school conflicts we must be made aware no less than one week in advance.

Health Concerns:

Drum Corps is a sport. Period. It is because of this that physical conditioning is a large part of what we both do at camps and expect each of you to do in preparation for this activity. We will also need to be notified of any pre-existing conditions that may hinder your success at this activity.

Fees/Tuition:

It is not cheap to run a drum corps and it is for this reason that in order to be truly considered for membership that you must be kept up to date on your personal account with the corps. If you have questions or concerns regarding your status financially with the corps contact the corps director and discuss your concerns with him rather than waiting until it is too late.

The Audition

Requirements:

Each of you will be expected to prepare the following for your audition:

1. The concert B-flat major scale. This will be performed both while marking time and while on the move.
2. Exercises from the Technique packet provided to you. Performed while marking time.
3. A prepared etude at least 30 seconds in length of your choosing. I would suggest an all region etude, band audition excerpt, etc...
4. Visually you may be asked to perform basic fundamentals as well in addition the above.

Additional Instructions:

Each student will be expected to perform at least a portion of the audition on the marching instrument they are intending to use during the season. This means for example that a French Horn player will be expected to be able to play a portion of their audition on mellophone. Trombone players are of course welcome to audition and are welcome to perform on their own instrument for a portion of the audition but will be expected to perform basic exercises in the audition on baritone/euphonium. Also, bring a copy of the piece you will be auditioning on. As with everything else in this packet if you have further questions please let me know.

Satellite and Video Auditions:

Please know that if you are unable to attend one of the full camps scheduled that you are more than welcome to attend one of our satellite camps or submit a video audition directly to myself or the corps director. There are two important facts to remember in regards to this form of audition should you so choose. First, you are still responsible for the audition fee and second that the audition itself does not change. The requirements for any person auditioning for this corps in whatever manner chosen will remain constant. That being said we hope that many perspective members will utilize these opportunities to audition for this horn line. Also, these auditions will earn you an invite to a full camp.

Camps:

At the camps the audition process will be as listed above. You will be given suggestions to improve on and a rating. Your rating will be on a number based system using 1-5. A 1 meaning that you have a great chance of becoming a member, a 2 meaning that you perform quite well and have some areas to improve on but still have a good chance for membership, a 3 meaning that you have areas to improve on in order to have hopes for membership before the next camp, a 4 meaning that you may not quite be ready for membership, and 5 meaning that you should prepare for another year and return for the next seasons horn line.

Contracts:

Contracts will be offered by caption heads. Should you receive a rating of 1 or 2 you will most likely be offered a contract for membership. Please remember that once offered a contract you must still meet the financial obligations of the corps to become a member of the horn line for the upcoming season. Contracts should be signed and returned as quickly as possible since the horn line will fill up quickly.

Audition Suggestions

Pick a Good Piece:

When you are picking a piece/etude for your audition pick one that will showcase your abilities. We would like to hear you perform a piece that highlights both your musicality as well as technical proficiency. The piece does NOT have to be memorized but please pick a piece that will make you sound as good as possible highlighting your strengths as a brass player.

Be Prepared:

The more you prepare, the more comfortable you are on the day of your first audition. Find a practice regimen that works for you and stick with it. Having a systematic approach allows you to quickly and fluidly move through what you need to do. Also, whenever you have the opportunity to perform publicly in front of people take advantage of it in order to be more calm in your actual audition. Another good idea is to record yourself playing so you get a better idea of what you sound like and where you need to improve.

Dealing with Nerves:

The first thing you must understand is that being nervous is normal. Once you understand that, it becomes easier to deal with your nervousness. Fighting nervousness can bring about negative physical effects; instead, strive to embrace nervous feelings and focus that energy in a positive way. It is likely that you will play something in your audition that will not go quite the way you would have liked. The manner in which you deal with those mistakes can be just as impressive as if you had played your piece perfectly. **ALWAYS** keep going, **DO NOT** apologize for your audition, and **NEVER** give excuses.

The Audition Room:

Before you enter the audition room, be certain that:

- 1) your instrument is in good, working condition.
- 2) you have all paperwork with you.
- 3) **you have a copy of your chosen piece to give to the instructor.**

*Finally, the brass staff would like to stress that the audition process does **NOT** end after the audition camp! No one will be cut prior to the January Camp. Preparation, improvement, attitude, attendance, section ranking, marching ability, and physical condition will be the determining factors for awarding a spot in the horn line.*

GET IN SHAPE!!

This is a SPORT. Period. So it is imperative that you prepare for the physical nature of this activity. Members of this corps need to be capable of extended cardio vascular activity. Remember that you need to prepare for the physical/visual component of your audition equally as much as the musical portion. With that in mind start preparing now. Eat right, no sodas, and GET ACTIVE!!!!

Equipment

Trumpets:

Please bring your own B-flat Trumpet to camps until instructed otherwise. You are responsible for bringing your own mouthpiece to all camps and to summer everydays.

Mellophones:

Whenever possible, bring an F Mellophone to camps until instructed otherwise. You are welcome to audition on a concert horn (you will need to bring you own instrument), however you will be asked to perform on a marching Mellophone during the audition process. You are responsible for bringing your own mouthpiece to all camps and to summer every days.

Baritone/Euphonium:

If possible, bring a marching Baritone or Euphonium to camps until instructed otherwise. You are welcome to audition on a concert Euphonium or Trombone (you will need to bring your own instrument), however you will be asked to perform on a marching Baritone or Euphonium during the audition process. You are responsible for bringing your own mouthpiece to all camps and to summer every days.

Tubas:

If possible, bring a marching Tuba or Sousaphone to camps until instructed otherwise. You are welcome to audition on a concert Tuba—you will need to bring your own instrument. However, you will be asked to perform on a marching Tuba during the audition process. You are responsible for bringing your own mouthpiece to all camps and to summer every days.

Mouthpieces:

In order to achieve the most uniform section sounds, we will be using specific mouthpieces within each section of the horn line. You are not required to purchase these mouthpieces for the audition, however, you **MUST** purchase the specified mouthpiece if you are selected to be a member of the corps. You will be notified at a later point as to what mouthpiece will be used for your particular instrument.

Rehearsal Materials

Horn line members are responsible for having the following materials at ALL rehearsals:

Black Three Ring Binder: This contains all music handouts in organized, clear sheet protectors. Any information you could possibly need should be in this binder.

Pencil: Every horn line member must have a pencil at all times. Notes should be taken at every rehearsal, especially when rehearsing with the arranger. Write EVERYTHING down!

Marching Gloves: These must be worn when handling a corps-owned instrument, and are suggested for handling your own personal instruments as well. You will go through many pairs of gloves during the season. It is important that your gloves remain in good condition and are replaced as necessary. Gloves that are dirty or contain holes are **NEVER** acceptable.

Black Rehearsal Towel: Your instrument is in one of three places at all times: in your hand, placed in the line on the ground, or in its case. The black towel is used to protect your instrument when placed on hard surfaces, especially when rehearsing outdoors. Please purchase a towel that is appropriate for your instrument's size. Trumpets do not need a body towel, and tubas will need more than a hand towel.

Hat: This will be worn at all times when rehearsing outdoors. Hats are required to shade your face, your eyes, and your lips which can get sunburned!! When rehearsing indoors, hats are discouraged.

Athletic Shoes: Movement will occur at all rehearsals; therefore, tennis shoes are required at all times. Sandals, shower shoes, flip-flops, etc. are never acceptable for rehearsal.

Clothing: You must wear clothing that will allow you to move freely without obscuring the staff's ability to see your visual technique (such as sweats, shorts, t-shirts, etc.—NO JEANS!). Again, movement will occur at all rehearsals so prepare accordingly.

Audio Recorders (Optional): Recording is encouraged at all Forte Drum DBC rehearsals because it will aid in your individual progress. In addition, tapes are **REQUIRED** for those brass ensemble members who miss rehearsals.

Personal Calendar: All auditionees are required to bring their personal calendar with them to each camp from November until move-ins. At each camp, the staff will take some time out to review the schedule of camps with the brassline. If you have a conflict with any of the camps, this will be the time to take care of it. Important dates such as high school graduations, college orientations, band/choir concerts, etc. will be recorded by the staff at this point (especially considering these dates will be set months in advance). Some things *may* come up at the last minute, and for this, email will suffice, but most excusable absences will be set months in advance. We treat the horn line as adults, and as such, you are expected to plan ahead as adults.

Water Bottles: Each brass ensemble member is required to have a water jug (no smaller than 1 gallon) beginning at everyday in June (possibly earlier should we begin to learn drill at Spring camps). These jugs must be present at all rehearsals from that point forward.