RIVER CITY RHYTHM

DRUM & BUGLE CORPS

2024 AUDITION PACKET

BRASS

Dear Brass Member Candidate...

"If you believe in yourself and have dedication and pride – and never quit, you'll be a winner. The price of victory is high but so are the rewards."

-Paul Bryant

Thank you for your interest in the River City Rhythm hornline! This packet is full of important audition information and includes all of the necessary exercises and audition materials. Please read this information carefully and prepare the material to the best of your ability before coming to camp. Reach out to joey@rivercityrhythm.org with any questions.

Prospective brass members will go through a two-step audition process before being offered a membership contract:

1. *Technical Evaluation*: Evaluation of current achievement level on the skillset necessary to perform in the hornline. This step will be fulfilled through a sit-down playing audition at an in-person camp.
2. *Camp Evaluation*: Evaluation of your willingness to learn and apply new skills throughout a camp weekend. Staff (and corps leaders) will observe every auditionee over the course of the weekend. A successful RCR member will internalize and be accountable for some basic expectations:
    a. A respect for the people that surround you
    b. A trust in both the staff and members
    c. A dedicated effort towards everything you do
    d. A desire to work hard
    e. A commitment to self-excellence

New to brass auditionees: If you prefer to audition on another instrument, you may do so, but we will need to hear you on your selected brass instrument before we can offer a membership contract.

Mellophone and baritone/euphonium auditionees: You are welcome to use concert instruments for your audition, but you will be asked to use a marching instrument at some point during camp.

Membership contracts will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis to prospective members who complete the audition process at a desired achievement level.

Sincerely,
The RCR Brass Staff

Musical Guidelines

Our main goal is the education of brass students. If you are having trouble with any of the audition materials we recommend the following guidelines:

1. Practice the material slowly at first. Use a metronome and do not proceed to a higher tempo until you are ready.
2. Embouchure and technical development will progress at a faster rate if the exercises are practiced every day. Try practicing for shorter amounts of time but more often. Short, 15-minute sessions several times a day will produce superior achievement than a once-a-week “cram” session.
3. Record yourself and actively listen to your recordings! You will be amazed at the amount of progress you will make by simply listening to your playing with an active ear. Be forewarned: at first, you might be discouraged by what you hear on the recording, but stick with it and you will be surprised at the amount of progress that you make.
4. Perform your audition materials for a teacher, friend, or colleague. Remember that an audition is a performance so make sure you get comfortable with the idea that you are performing for an audience.
5. Finally, relax and don’t get frustrated. We are not looking for perfect performers; we are looking for students who are open-minded and have an enthusiastic attitude. All we ask is you simply do your best!

Visual Guidelines

We do not expect new auditionees to be familiar with our marching technique. We start with basic marching technique on day one. This allows our veterans to brush up on their technique and for new members to learn our style, terminology, and commands. It may seem overwhelming at first, but we will move slowly and guide you through every step of the way.

We evaluate individuals based on general aptitude and their ability to adapt to our movement style over time. We will review your abilities using the following criteria:

1. Ability to move agilely and athletically with and without instruments
2. Physical endurance and strength
3. Posture and presence
4. Ability to play your instrument on the move

Visual auditions are not done individually; instead, staff will be watching how each individual works within the context of the larger group.

WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP

The list below is what is expected for ALL brass auditionees to bring to each camp. Information on additional camp items (sleeping gear, shower stuff, clothing, etc) will be provided as in-person camps approach.

Instruments: You are responsible for bringing your own instrument and mouthpiece to camps until you have committed to a contract and received a corps-owned horn. Corps instruments may be used at camps as inventory allows, but members MUST be contracted in order to take an instrument home.

Three-Ring Binder: This will contain all music handouts (including your Brass Audition Packet), organized in clear sheet protectors.

Pencil: Every brass ensemble member must have a pencil at all times. Notes should be taken at every opportunity. *Mechanical pencils work great!*

Balloons: Standard balloons will be needed at every rehearsal. NO WATER BALLOONS!!

Tuner/Metronome: Every person is required to have a tuner, metronome, or tuner-metronome combo. Apps are permitted.

Clothing: You must wear clothing that will allow you to move comfortably, such as sweats, shorts, t-shirts, etc. **NO JEANS**.

Athletic Shoes: Athletic shoes are required at all times. Sandals, shower shoes, flip-flops, high tops, etc. are never acceptable for rehearsal.

Water Jug (1 gal, <u>blue</u>): Each brass ensemble member is required to have their own personal, blue 1-gallon water jug beginning in June. These jugs must be present and filled with water at all rehearsals. Coleman Chiller in Deep Ocean is pictured here. *Any larger water container (≥32oz) works for camps.*

Gloves: These must be worn when handling a corps-owned instrument. Gloves that are dirty or contain holes are not acceptable. Mechanix Wear or baseball batting gloves work great and last longer than standard cotton gloves.

Black Towel: A black towel is used to protect your instrument when placed on hard surfaces. Every section except tuba will need a standard hand towel. Tubas will need a full bath towel.

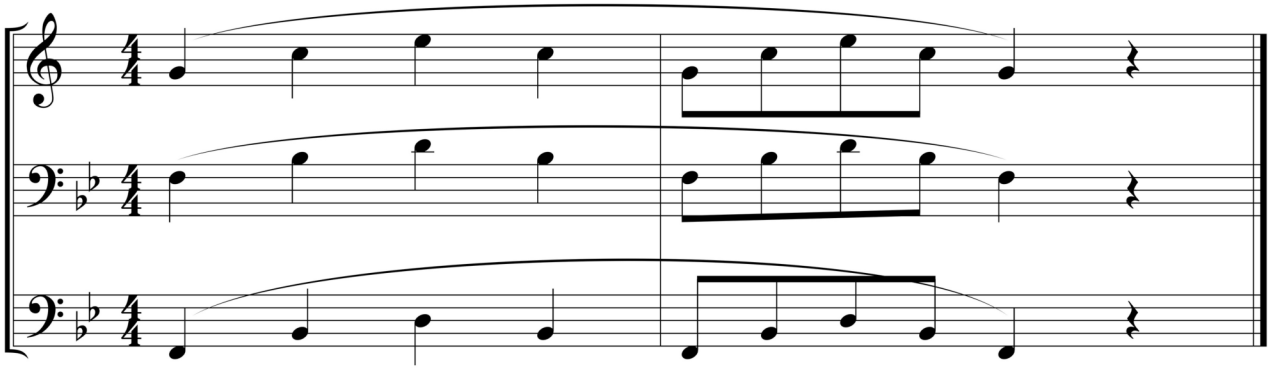
Brass Audition Requirements

Each brass auditionee will perform 3 exercises selected from our technique book. They will also play 8-16 bars from each of the etudes provided here. Perform each at an appropriate, comfortable tempo. If you are doing your first round of auditions on a woodwind instrument you will still perform the technique exercises on brass, but you will need to select your own etudes (lyrical and technical) for the other half of the audition.

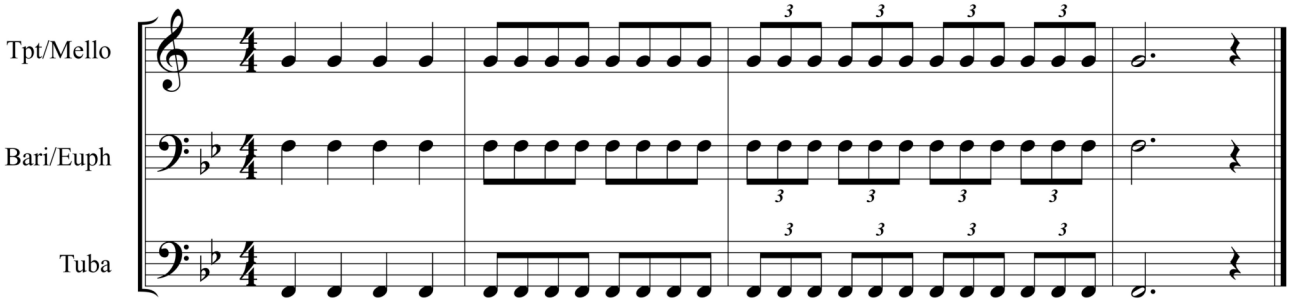
Visual auditions will be evaluated on-site at an audition camp.

Technique Exercises - All instruments

3-Note Lip Slur (taken through the chromatic series)



Articulation #1



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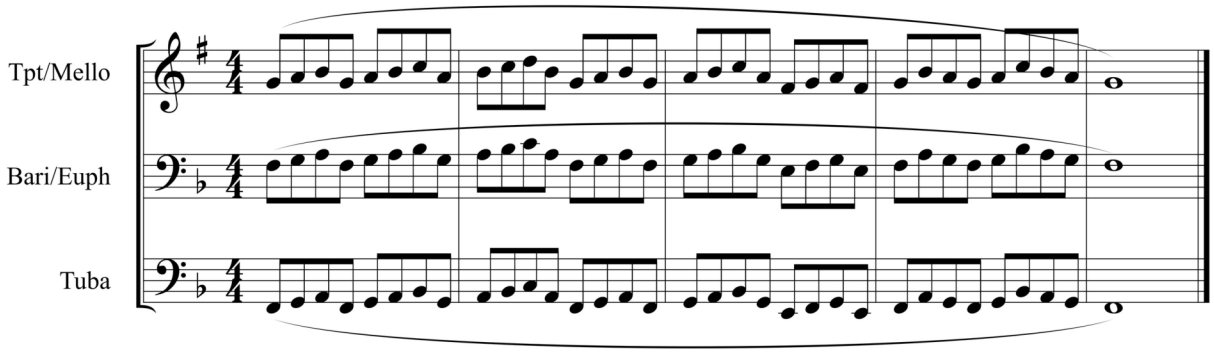
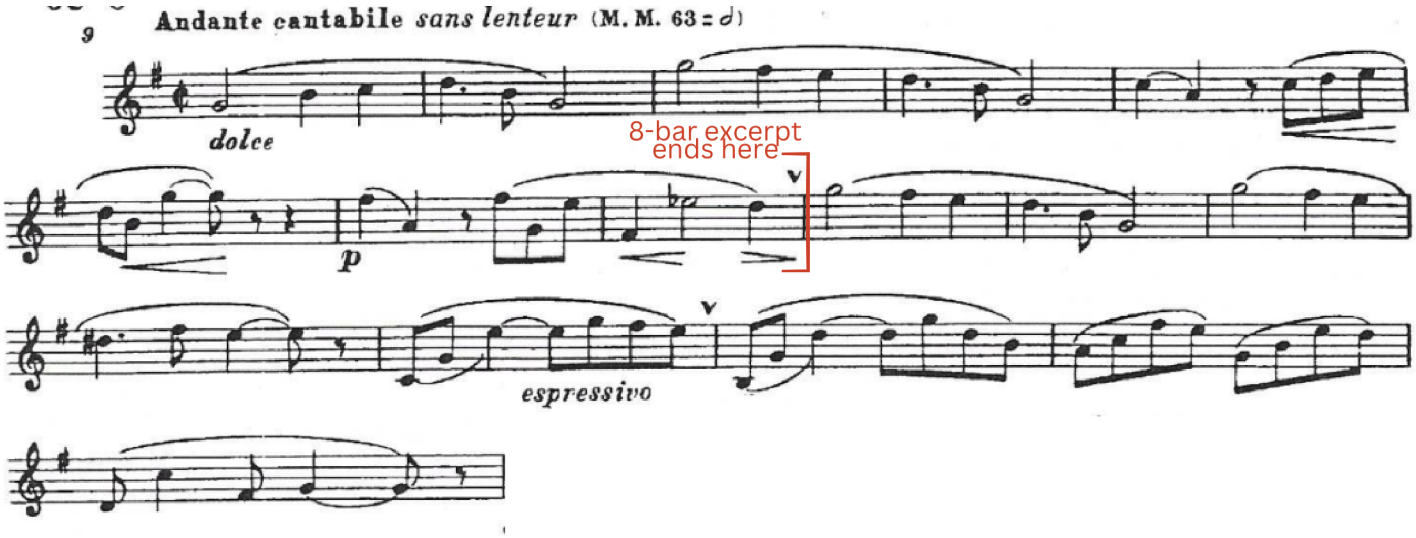
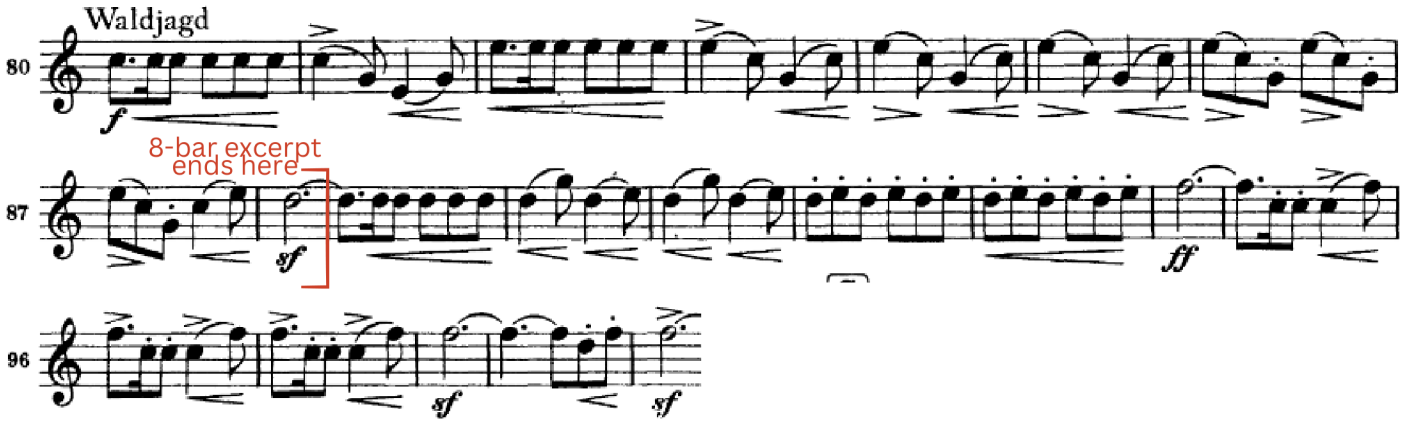


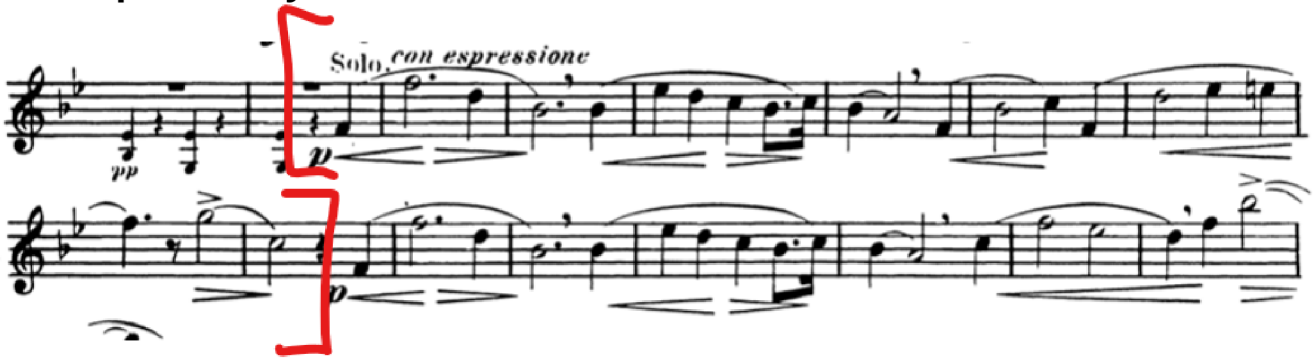
Trumpet - Lyrical Etude



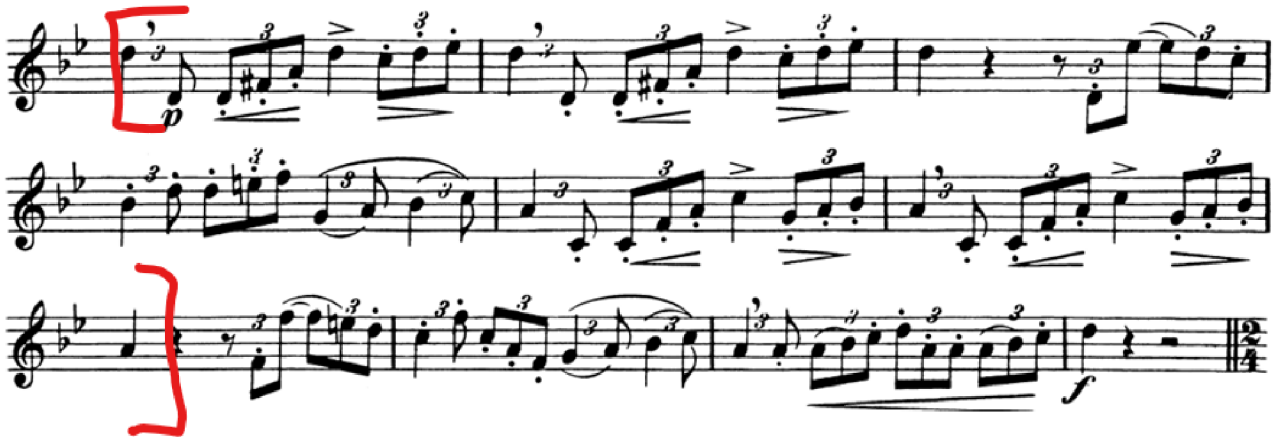
Trumpet - Technical Etude



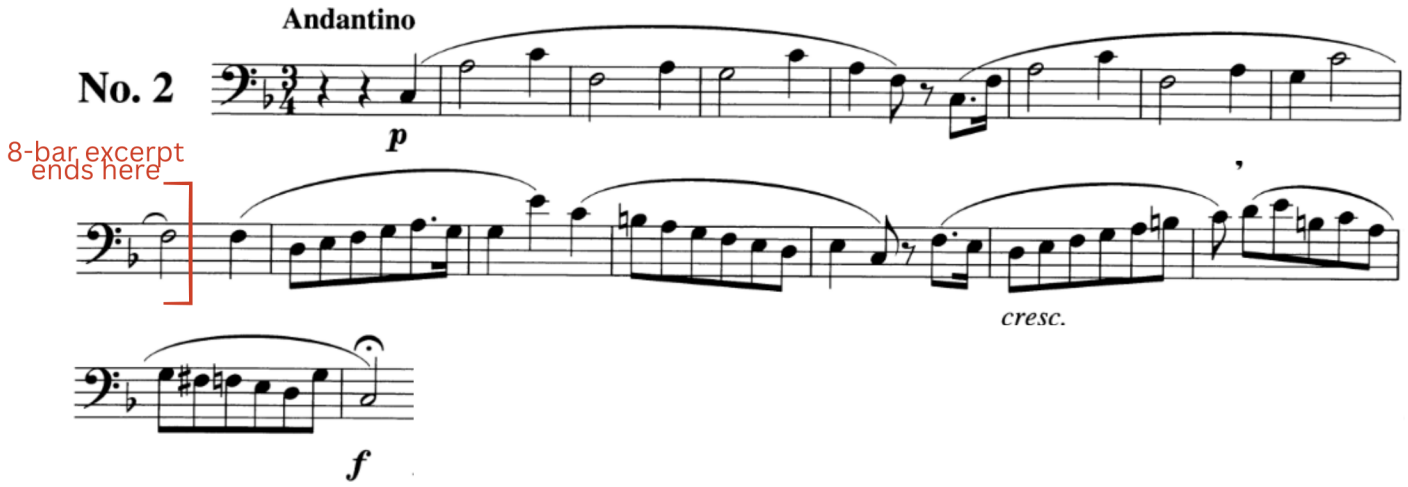
Mellophone - Lyrical Etude



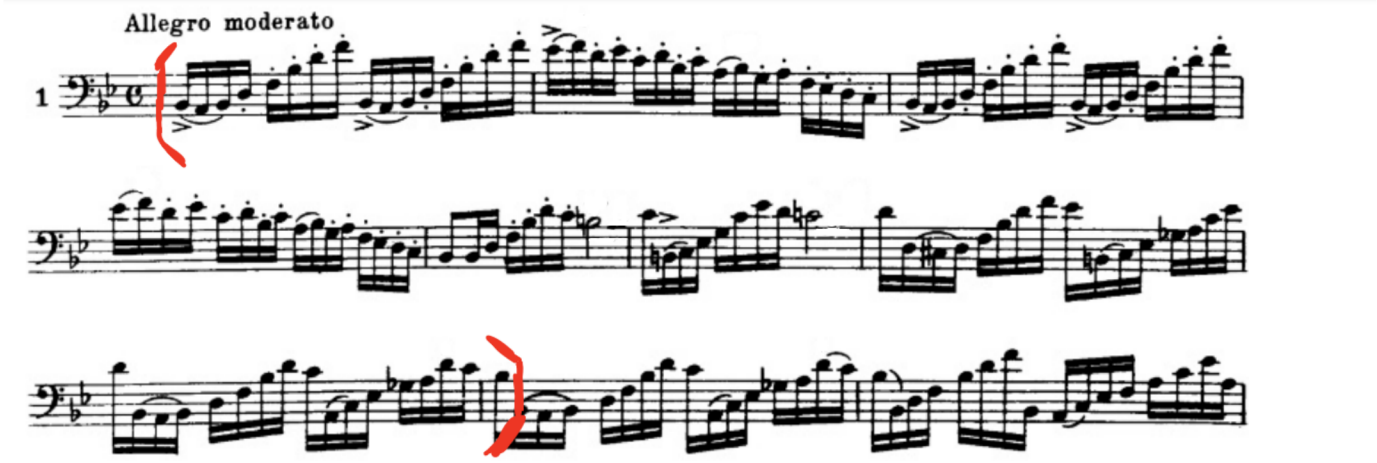
Mellophone - Technical Etude



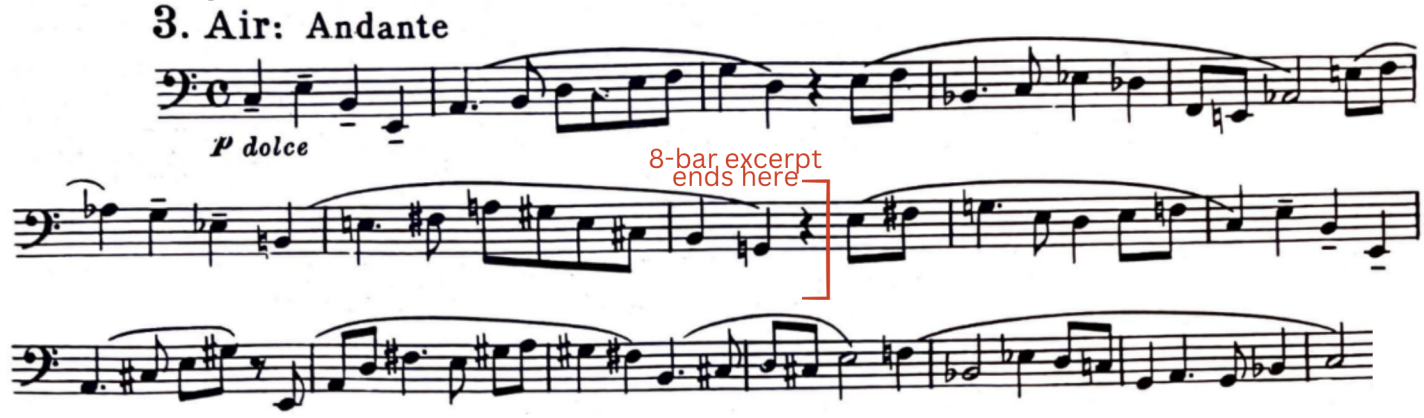
Baritone - Lyrical Etude



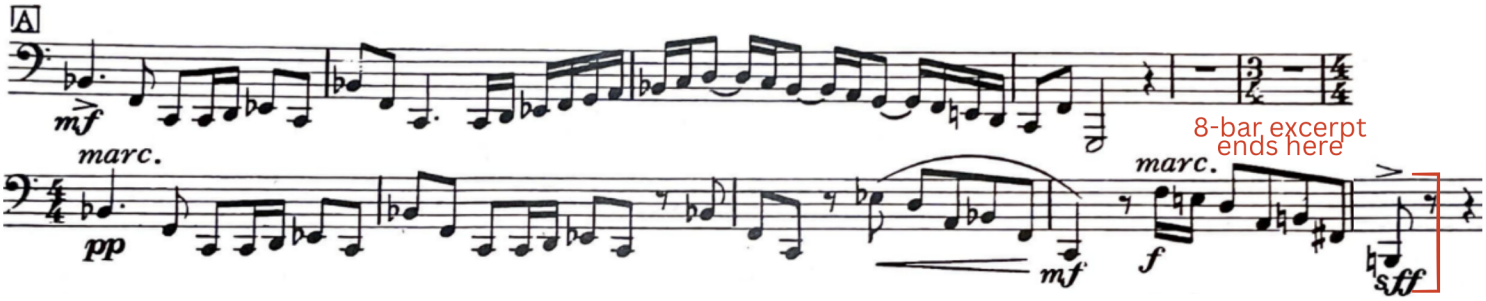
Baritone - Technical Etude



Tuba - Lyrical Etude



Tuba - Technical Etude



Posture & Preparing Yourself Physically

Familiarize yourself with proper posture; drum corps is a standing activity. Practice your instrument while standing with proper posture.

The Points of Alignment:

- Feet – 60 degrees, spread out toes, weight 55/45 (more on the platform vs balls of feet)
- Ankles – Right ankle bone over the top of your dot
- Knees – Straight but not locked
- Hips – Stretch ribs away from hips, spine lengthened
- Shoulders – Wide and relaxed; do not exaggerate pushing the chest out
- Ears (head) – Separate ears from shoulders, long necks, level chin, EYES UP

Arms in 'playing position/fake horns up':
Left fist out in front of face at eye level, right hand rests on top of the left hand; 'Power Triangle' (arms at 120 degrees, straight line from elbows to knuckles, open up the armpits)

Create this same arm shape with an instrument in a playing position, bell at 10 degrees above parallel (tubas will use the same posture without horns, but their horn position will be different).

Whatever your background, there are some things you can do before the season starts to help make auditions easier. Drum corps is an aerobic activity, and we will start with our visual program at the first camp! To help ease the physical transition, here is a workout suggestion to be completed at least twice each week (for a month or longer) leading up to your audition:

1. Jog 0.25 miles or walk 1 mile
2. 3 sets of 20-second planks (30-second rest between)
3. 3 sets of 10 push-ups
4. 3 sets of 10 sit-ups
5. Be on your feet for at least an hour