MINNESOTA BRASS

DRUM & BUGLE CORPS

FRONT ENSEMBLE

2019 AUDITION PACKET

Welcome

Thanks for your interest in Minnesota Brass! We hope you're as excited as we are about the upcoming 2019 summer season. Congratulations on taking the first step towards membership in our ensemble!

The number one barrier to joining MBI is the mindset of: "I'm not good enough".
Our auditions are more than just auditions; we will give you a complete educational experience throughout the audition process. These first few weeks are open to all ability levels, including those who are not planning on joining our ensemble this season. While there is an audition component to the rehearsals, the primary purpose is to help you grow as a performer on whatever instrument you choose. Our seasoned educational team is excited to meet you and help you reach your full potential!

Details

The audition process will have two components - a GROUP and an INDIVIDUAL audition. For the GROUP portion potential members should prepare ALL exercises in the packet to get the most out of this experience. Members will be evaluated based on their ability to play within the ensemble as well as apply any information given by the instructors.

The second component will be an INDIVIDUAL audition. In this audition we will ask you to play a couple exercises from the packet so we can more accurately evaluate your individual sound quality and timing. We want to hear your best sounds and best approach to the instrument!

Contact Info:

Chris Judd - Front Ensemble Arranger and Coordinator

chris.pjudd90@gmail.com

Erin VanBurkleo - Front Ensemble Supervisor

erin.f.vanburkleo@gmail.com

Joel Matuzak - Creative Director

joelmatuzak@me.com

Preface

"When the student ceases to think about what note to strike, the student can fully concentrate on how to strike."

"Profitable practice concentrates on what is between the notes even more than the notes themselves."

- Leigh Howard Stevens 'Method of Movement'

Technique will be discussed in detail at the Audition camps.
Make sure to have a general level of comfort with the exercises in order to focus on the how and not on the what during your time with our staff.

Tempo Goals and Notes

Octaves - Work on this with 2 mallets and inside mallets while holding 4.
Synth players can learn octaves with both hands. ♪ = 130 - 210

Kleen - Work this slow to perfect the 'gear changes' between duple and triple rhythms. Practice with left hand and right hand lead. ♪ = 110 - 180

Dirte - Work all patterns for Major scales for now. Work the flow for all patterns within each scale.
♪ = 110 - 180

Verts - This is the 'Octaves' of 4 mallets. Work on consistently clean quad stops and flow between chord changes.
♪ = 130 - 190

Five-Four Accent - Interval control between manuals - white key and black key combinations.
Work on maintaining smaller intervals (true 3rd's and 4ths) while developing sound quality with both accents and taps. Use edges of accidentals when needed.
♩ = 70 - 120

Broccoli - Use all of these lateral combinations to strengthen and eliminate weak rotation points. Each individual mallet should freely rebound without freezing, or extraneous motions.
♩ = 50 - 110

Two short ensemble etudes, along with additional variations of the above exercises will be handed out during the audition process. Be prepared to be flexible with changes.

Octaves

Universal

Move chromatically to next key, wait for preps.

Fundamentals:

1. *Learn all Major and Natural Minor Keys - bonus points for mode knowledge.*
2. *Basic Technique - **mirror your hands**. A 'weak hand' should not be audible or visible.*
3. *Smooth movement between black keys and white keys.*
4. *Consistent heights/touch with every possible scale pattern.*

Kleen

Dirté

Repeat in all twelve major scales

Verts

Verts

Five-Four Accent

13
15
17

Broccoli

7
4 3 2 1
3 2 1 4
4 3 2 1
3 2 1 4
7
9
2 1 4 3
1 4 3 2
2 1 4 3
1 4 3 2
9
11
4 3 2 1
3 2 1 4
2 1 4 3
1 4 3 2
4 3 2 1
3 2 1 4
2 1 4 3
1 4 3 2
11

13
1 2 3 4 2 3 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 1 2 3
1 2 3 4 2 3 4 1 3 4 1 2 4 1 2 3
13
15
15
17
17

19
4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 2 1 4 3 1 4 3 2
4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 2 1 4 3 1 4 3 2
19
21
21
23
23

25
25
27
27