2021 ν-USBands Participant Guide
Percussion Marching Band (Spring)
INTRODUCTION TO 2021 v-USBands PERCUSSION AND SPRING MARCHING BAND SEASONS

Welcome to the v-USBands 2021 Winter Percussion season! Since its first event in 1988, USBands has supported the development of scholastic performing ensembles through exceptional service, adjudication and venues. The USBands organization has been dedicated to serving the music education community no matter the challenges with a willingness and ability to pivot to address the needs of educators and students. In 2020, USBands has once again adapted its model to create v-USBands to provide meaningful performance opportunities for students and quality assessment to help educators improve their programs.

Our overall guiding principle is to provide ensembles, regardless of style, size, and experience, an opportunity to be successful, thus positively complementing the benefits students experience with their involvement in scholastic music. The regulations that govern USBands’ events are minimal by design. USBands prides itself on a user-friendly approach to support and service, in which directors and performers can fully enjoy the performance process without the concern of punitive rules and penalties.

As a director, instructor, or supporter of a participating ensemble, please familiarize yourself with the material in this Guide so you’re able to take full advantage of everything USBands has to offer.

Thank you for joining USBands to celebrate our 33rd year of service in support of music programs across the nation. Best wishes for a great year!

PARTICIPATION GUIDE

This participation guide is designed to address the Percussion and Marching Band classes. If you are interested in Chamber Ensemble, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Jazz Combo and Creative classes, please see the Participant Guide for those categories. If you are interested in Marching Winds (Indoor) please contact us at info@usbands.org.
IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2021

January 15:  Registration Opens for the ν-US Bands Virtual Performance season
Registration for each week closes 7 days prior to the video submission date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>REGISTRATION DEADLINE (By 11:59pm ET)</th>
<th>VIDEO SUBMISSION DEADLINE (By 11:59pm ET)</th>
<th>ADJUDICATION DATES</th>
<th>FLOMARCHING DATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 Groups, Ensembles and EShowcase</td>
<td>Mon Feb 15</td>
<td>Mon Feb 22</td>
<td>Feb 23-25</td>
<td>Feb 27-28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 Groups, Ensembles and EShowcase</td>
<td>Mon Feb 22</td>
<td>Mon Mar 1</td>
<td>Mar 2-4</td>
<td>Mar 6-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 Solos, Groups, Ensembles and EShowcase</td>
<td>Mon Mar 1</td>
<td>Mon Mar 8</td>
<td>Mar 9-11</td>
<td>Mar 13-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEASON SHOWCASE #1 Groups, Ensembles and EShowcase</td>
<td>Mon Mar 8</td>
<td>Mon Mar 15</td>
<td>Mar 16-18</td>
<td>Mar 20-21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6 Groups, Ensembles and EShowcase</td>
<td>Mon Mar 22</td>
<td>Mon Mar 29</td>
<td>Mar 30-Apr 1</td>
<td>Apr 3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7 Solos, Groups, Ensembles and EShowcase</td>
<td>Mon Mar 29</td>
<td>Mon Apr 5</td>
<td>Apr 6-8</td>
<td>Apr 10-11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WGI Finals April 17 - 18

| SEASON SHOWCASE #2 Groups, Ensembles and EShowcase | Mon Apr 12 | Mon Apr 19 | Apr 20-22 | Apr 24-25 |
Definitions:

Registration Date: Date by which director confirms participation by individuals, ensembles and groups

Submission Date: Date by which all submissions from schools will need to be confirmed by USBands & FloMarching. 11:59pm Eastern.

Adjudication Dates: Dates that adjudicators provide evaluation on submitted videos. Commentary will be provided immediately to the school upon the completion of the evaluation.

FloMarching Dates: Dates videos will be available for viewing on FloMarching from 9AM Saturday to 11:59PM Sunday each week.

**TYPES OF PARTICIPATION**

v-USBands is excited to offer virtual performance opportunities for soloists, ensembles and groups of all sizes and skill levels.

Performance opportunities have been created to incorporate Winter Guard International evaluation criteria for Soloists, Ensembles, E-Showcase, and Groups. Details follow on each of the categories below.

**SOLO PERCUSSION** - Evaluated by 1 Adjudicator per equipment or discipline. Please reference the Judging Criteria portion of the Participant Guide for additional details. Please reference the Important Dates portion of the Participant Guide for dates available for solo competition.

Solo Percussion categories are Snare Drum, Multi-Tenor Drums, Keyboard, Timpani, and Multi-Percussion (any number of percussion instruments played by a solo performer including a drum set).

Age Categories: 13 and Under  14-18  19+
• Performer(s) will receive recorded feedback through the performance and summary comments.

ENSEMBLE - PERCUSSION (Minimum 2 - Maximum of 9 Performers) - Evaluated by 1 Adjudicator. Please reference the Judging Criteria portion of the Participant Guide for additional details.

Classifications are based on age of the participant (or oldest participant in the Ensemble) as of Jan 1 of the competition year:

- 13 years old and under
- 14-18 years old
- 19 years old and above

Percussion Ensemble may have any combination of percussion Instruments

USBands will offer two types of Ensemble:

- Staged (with movement)
- Concert (no movement)

• Directors will receive recorded feedback through the performance and summary comments.

GROUPS - PERCUSSION

Marching Percussion

- Competitive - Evaluated by 2 Adjudicators
  - Groups may have no less than 6* members

  Scholastic:  Junior, Regional A, A, Open, and World
              Concert RA, Concert A, Concert Open, Concert World

  Independent:  Junior, Regional A, A, Open, and World
                Concert RA, Concert A, Concert Open, Concert World

- Non Competitive - Evaluated by 2 Adjudicators

  If choosing the “Non-Competitive” class, videos will be hosted on FloMarching and the group will be delivered evaluator feedback based on the same criteria as Competitive Groups, but will not receive
scores/rankings/ratings/or assessment charts. If you do not wish your video to appear on FloMarching, simply let USBands know by emailing Marching@usbands.org.

Concert Percussion and Standstill Percussion

(Standstill Percussion intended for traditional battery with or without front ensemble)

**Competitive** - Evaluated by 2 Adjudicators each on Concert sheet
  Groups may have no less than 6* members
  **Scholastic:** Junior, Regional A, A, Open, and World
    Concert RA, Concert A, Concert Open, Concert World
  **Independent:** Junior, Regional A, A, Open, and World
    Concert RA, Concert A, Concert Open, Concert World

**Non Competitive** - Evaluated by 2 Adjudicators

If choosing the “Non-Competitive” class, videos will be hosted on FloMarching and the group will be delivered evaluator feedback based on the same criteria as Competitive Groups, but will not receive scores/rankings/ratings/or assessment charts. If you do not wish your video to appear on FloMarching, simply let USBands know by emailing Marching@usbands.org.

**E-SHOWCASE** - Evaluated by 1 Adjudicator

The E-Showcase is intended for the group who will be using different video angles and editing.

Commentary will be provided with no ranking or rating

**MARCHING BAND**

- Division 1 (26-50 members)
- Division 2 (51-75 members)
- Division 3 (76 - 99 members)
- Division 4 (100< members)

- Bands with less than 25 members can choose to participate as a Division 1 Marching Band at the Director’s discretion.

- Directors will receive recorded feedback through the performance and summary comments.

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**VIDEO SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soloist</th>
<th>Ensembles (Staged and E-Showcase)</th>
<th>Groups Concert</th>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Marching Band</th>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1:00 minute</td>
<td>1:00 minute</td>
<td>1:00 minute</td>
<td>1:00 minute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of Performer in Introduction</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name of High School/Organization in Introduction</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of Ensemble or Group in Introduction</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of Performance Program in Introduction</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Performance Time</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Performance Time</td>
<td>4:00 minutes</td>
<td>4:30 minutes</td>
<td>8:00 minutes</td>
<td>Concert RA-5 minutes Concert A - 6 minutes Concert Open - 7 minutes Concert World - 8 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judging begins with first note or movement</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ADJUDICATION**
USBands and WGI standards are in place to ensure an educational experience for all participating ensembles.
SOLO AND SMALL ENSEMBLE ADJUDICATION

One Judge will adjudicate Soloists and Small Ensembles on the following criteria:

Effect & Performance to be calculated for a Final Rating of
Superior (90%-100%),
Excellent (80%-89.99%)
Good (under 79.99%).

Effect (50%)
The Musical Journey
Creativity
Artistry

Performance (50%)
Musicianship
Sound Production
Rhythmic Clarity

GROUP ADJUDICATION
One Judge will focus on Program, the other judge will focus on Skills.

**Percussion Marching Classes**  
Two adjudicators  
(1) Music Judge evaluating Music Impression and Music Analysis 60%  
(1) Visual judge evaluating Visual Impression and Music Analysis 40%
The VISUAL caption is a synthesis of effect and performance achievement through programmatic impression and visual analysis. Credit the success of all elements in contributing to an enduring overall impression and the display of visual excellence over time.

In forming an impression, consider the programmatic journey, the communication of identity and show concept, the quality blend of creativity and performance, and the performers’ ability to connect with the audience through artistry and commitment over time.

In evaluating analysis, credit the realization of compositional and performance excellence displayed by the members of the ensemble, both collectively and individually; considering the orchestration of devices utilized, vocabulary exhibited, layered responsibilities presented, and the degree of achievement demonstrated by the performers over time.

**IMPRESSION (20)**
- Program
- Creativity
- Communication
- Engagement
- Visual Journey
- Artistry

**ANALYSIS (20)**
- Orchestration
- Clarity of Intent
- Interpretation of the Audio
- Accuracy
- Ensemble Cohesiveness

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No scores will be published. No ordinals will be published. Each ensemble will receive their Assessment Dot Chart following the event. For USBands awards announcements, the Box placements will be translated into the following ratings:

Box 5 - Superior, Box 4 - Outstanding, Box 3 - Excellent, Box 2 - Good.

**Educational Assessment Dot Chart**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Music Impression</th>
<th>Music Analysis</th>
<th>Visual Impression</th>
<th>Visual Analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>![Chart Image]</td>
<td>![Chart Image]</td>
<td>![Chart Image]</td>
<td>![Chart Image]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>1 Dot</th>
<th>2 Dots</th>
<th>3 Dots</th>
<th>4 Dots</th>
<th>5 Dots</th>
<th>6 Dots</th>
<th>7 Dots</th>
<th>8 Dots</th>
<th>9 Dots</th>
<th>10 Dots</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-25%</td>
<td>0-100%</td>
<td>0-200%</td>
<td>0-300%</td>
<td>0-400%</td>
<td>0-500%</td>
<td>0-600%</td>
<td>0-700%</td>
<td>0-800%</td>
<td>0-900%</td>
<td>0-1000%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Box 2</td>
<td>Box 3</td>
<td>Box 4</td>
<td>Box 5</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PERCUSSION GROUP CONCERT AND STANDSTILL

Two adjudicators, each using the Percussion Music (Concert) Sheet

No scores will be published. No ordinals will be published. Each ensemble will receive their Assessment Dot Chart following the event. For USBands awards announcements, the Box placements will be translated into the following ratings:

- Box 5 - Superior
- Box 4 - Outstanding
- Box 3 - Excellent
- Box 2 - Good
DIVISION 1,2,3,4 MARCHING BANDS

Three adjudicators | One adjudicator for Music, One for Visual, One for Effect | Each Adjudicator’s sub-captions are totaled and divided by 2 for the adjudicator’s score = 100 pts max. Then the 3 Adjudicators’ scores are added together and divided by 3 for the ensemble's final score. This in turn will determine the rating. (Weighted system formula may be considered and applied)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Music Adjudicator (200 Points Total)</th>
<th>Visual Adjudicator (200 Points Total)</th>
<th>Effect Adjudicator (200 Points Total)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 100 pts for Content</td>
<td>• 100 pts for Composition</td>
<td>• 100 pts for Program Effect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Orchestration</td>
<td>• Orchestration</td>
<td>• Coordination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Creativity</td>
<td>• Depth of Design Elements</td>
<td>• Continuity/Flow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Variety</td>
<td>• Variety</td>
<td>• Pacing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Relationship of Musical Elements</td>
<td>• Visual Musicality</td>
<td>• Creativity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 100 pts for Achievement</td>
<td>• 100 pts for Achievement</td>
<td>• 100 pts for Performance Effect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Blend and Balance</td>
<td>• Definition of Style</td>
<td>• Achieved Effects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Rhythmic Accuracy/Tempo Control</td>
<td>• Form Control through Time and Space</td>
<td>• Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Style/Idiomatic Interpretation</td>
<td>• Awareness/Recovery</td>
<td>• Emotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Tone Quality/Intonation</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Engagement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESULTS • RECAPS • AWARD CEREMONIES

• Placements will be announced for the top 3 in each class
• Ratings announced for the entire class and recaps provided to Directors
• No scores will be announced
• All results will be sent to Directors via Competition Suite as the judging is completed for that class and no later than 11am on the Friday following adjudication.
• Pre-produced Award Ceremony video event on FloMarching to be hosted Sunday evening at 7:00PM ET each week

Definitions:
Recaps: Details caption scores
Scores: Total scores for Individuals, Ensembles and Groups
v-USBands VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE PARTICIPATION

Registration fees for v-USBands 2021 are as follows:

- Group - $40 per submission
- Small Ensemble, Standstill or E-Showcase – $30 per submission
- Individual – $25 per submission
- Marching Band - $85 per submission

REGISTRATION & VIDEO SUBMISSION

Step 1: Create your profile and add your Unit

(This section only needs to be completed once. After you create your profile, should you wish to register for additional events, you can skip to Step 2. If you already have a profile and need to create a new ensemble proceed to #5 and create a new ensemble)

1. Go to the USBands.org website
2. In the upper right corner of the home page you will see a place to “Sign In”
3. This will take you to a page where you can sign in or if this is your first time, you will see the option to “Create a New Account” at the bottom of the page in red.
4. You will be asked to enter your name, email and a password. You are creating a personal account. You will add your ensemble to your account in the next step.
5. The page you will now see will look like this:

Under Profile you can add information such as your address, phone number, picture. The Email and Password section is there if you need to change this Information.

Add a Band is where you will add your ensemble. Complete the information requested. Independent Units should put Independent in where it asks for School Name.
6. When you save you will be taken to your groups profile page. It will look something like this:

On the side will be a dashboard.

You will be able to check information for your group here.

Click on the Productions tab. It will take you to a place to enter your 2021 Show information. Click on the red Missing Information link.

You will now be able to fill out the name of your production, a short description, name the musical selections you will be using, any acknowledgements you have (Staff, etc.) and any special notes that you would like to share. There will be a place at the bottom to confirm the number of performers and type of ensemble.

You will choose Your Category from the drop down list. A second drop down list will appear where you will be able to select the division in which you will be competing.

7. If you wish to add other staff to be able to access your ensemble information, you can do this under the Managers Tab

8. Once you have created your ensemble you can register for events. You only need to create the profile the first time you register.

**Step 2: Registration**

1. Click on the link at the top of the page that says EVENTS.
2. You will see a list of all of the virtual events for the season. Click on the event you wish to register for.
3. You will be taken to that event’s registration page where you will fill out specific information. (Please be certain you have completed the Production Information Tab above.) Click SUBMIT.

4. You will now be taken to the Billing page. If paying by credit card, please complete the information and click submit. If paying by purchase order or check, see the information at the bottom of the page for sending the check or P.O.

5. You can always find your billing statements and payments under the INVOICES tab on your profile page.

Step 2: FloMarching Video Submission

STEP 3: Step-by-Step video upload

After registering for an event, you will receive a FloMarching Uploader Link from USBands

Cut and paste that link into your browser. (See below for Video Tips)

It will take you to a login page. Log in with your account.

(If you do not have a FloMarching Account, go to FloMarching.com and in the upper right hand corner of the page click on Join Now. You will be asked for an email address and a password. Click Join Now and you are done. You do not need to purchase a subscription.)

Once you have logged in with your account you will be taken to 2021 Virtual Uploader page

There are directions at the top of the page.

You will see directions to upload your video. Please title your video: Group Name – Show Title. The area to upload the video is at the bottom of the page. You may drag and drop or upload the file. Be sure to use either an MP4 or .mov. If you are using Adobe Premier or Final Cut Pro to edit, be sure to set your video encoder to H.264 before exporting. DO NOT USE anything entitled APPLE PRORES.

Your video will take a few moments to upload. Below the area you uploaded the video there will be a few areas to fill in. Several are drop down menus.

Please enter: (The information may be slightly different depending on what type of event you are entering)
**Title** - “Group Name – Show Title”
Please Enter your Unit Name then a dash and then the Show Title. Doing this will make it easier for your parents and fans to find the video on FloMarching.
Please be certain to use this as the title of your video as well.

**Description** –
Here you can include hometown (City, State, Country) and any description you wish to provide. This will appear with your published video.

**Division** -
You will choose the Division of performance you are entering from the dropdown menu.

**Age division** (solo and ensemble only)
You may see Age Division, if so, please indicate the correct Age division.

**Competition Status** (not applicable to all Divisions)
You may see an area to choose Competitive or Exhibition. If so, please choose one.

**Level** –
Select the correct class for your group

Once the video uploads you will see a thumbnail of it appear in this area.
Once the upload is done, you will click **COMPLETE**
You will see an **UPLOAD CONFIRMED** over your Thumbnail. (Please note – the **Preview** button will not work.)

Go to the email account with which you registered for FloMarching. You should **receive a confirmation email**. This email will have a preview link which will be functional.

**Video Tutorials to Uploading to FloMarching**

- [Generic Upload Help Video](#)
- [Account Setup Video](#)
- [Video Encoding Setting](#)
- [iPhone Camera Settings](#)

**TIPS:**
**Video Submission Tips:** To help you ensure your video is ready for submission through the FloSports video uploader, please use the following guidelines prior to recording/uploading:

**iPhone Users:** Watch this quick video to ensure your phone camera settings are set up correctly BEFORE recording your video. [WATCH HERE](#)

If you do not have access to video editing software try using [Handbrake](#) to re-export the video file using the specifications below.

**Video Editing Software Users:**
If you are using a video editing software such as Adobe Premiere or Final Cut to edit/export your video please export using the following settings:

- **Audio:** Each video must have an audio track to upload properly. If your video is without an audio track it will not upload properly.

**Step 3: Upload Drum Captain/Student Leadership Salute File**
- The link to upload your band's "Salute Video" file is: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1VgKbQJxQMlly8OgInG2Ts1eHpgrauNmH?usp=sharing
- Please make sure to include the name of your school/group in this file.
- File should be uploaded by the Monday of your week of competition.
- Groups can upload separate Salute files each week. Please include the date of the event in the file title.

**VIDEO SUBMISSION CYCLE OVERVIEW**
VIDEO SUBMISSION RULES

Performance for all non-E-Showcase submissions including soloists, ensembles and groups will be a single unedited video, shot focused on the performer(s) – simply recorded and not enhanced. No panning or zoom should be used.

E-Showcase individuals, ensembles and groups can utilize a full range of editing and video effects in accordance with WGI rules and regulations.

CONTACT

USBands Operations Team

**Sean King** - Executive Director
610-314-7464 | sking@usbands.org

**Eric Kitchenman** - Adjudication
610-232-7562 | ekitchenman@usbands.org

**Ginny Kraft** - Participant Relations