

TJ Drum Line Info Sheet



Show Concept for Winter 2022:

Counter

This year's show concept is still very much under construction, but the basic idea is to explore music that has highly contrasting elements in a back-and-forth balance/counter-balance interplay, starting with music that develops through its distinct application of musical counterpoint. Counterpoint in music involves the overlapping of musical ideas to achieve counter-melodic interaction between voices. In a musical Fugue, multiple voices actually state and restate the same melody over and over again, but they do so at different times so the theme overlaps and interacts with itself, creating complex counter melodies and harmonies, and surprisingly dramatic development. While this sounds somewhat academic, it is actually a rather simple concept with potential for strong visual and musical imagery and construction that will set up a uniquely transparent design process. A further conceptual element to be explored in this show is the idea of counter-cultural interaction (no, we're not getting political 😞) with juxtaposition of music from the Baroque period with hyper-modern music, or possibly even familiar pop music. One of the strong compositional devices we will explore is balance and contrast – and for a great example of this, just listen to the two pieces of source material back to back and you're more likely to understand the artistic range we hope to explore. A potential pop-culture source is not listed here (yet), but we will likely go this direction too. In the end, we hope you the variety and creativity will appeal to you, and you will join us!

The musical source material is always subject to change, in large part due to copyright licensure processes and prices, but we intend to write either arrangements of, or original compositions based loosely on a couple pieces of music that contrast each other in extreme ways. "[Little Fugue in G Minor](#)", composed by J. S. Bach (that link is an orchestral arrangement, but the original would have been for organ) is fairly certain to be the opening material, treated very similarly to the Four Seasons material in this fall's TJMC show. In contrast to that, we will likely pursue some pop music, not yet listed here. We are also looking at pieces like "[Collide](#)", composed for percussion ensemble by Jacob Rimmington, which is a more mainstream concert percussion piece that would strongly counter balance the music of Bach. And potentially, all of the above would be combined by the end in ways that at first, may seem improbable.

The "backdrop" for most winter drum line and color guard shows is a floor tarp upon which we perform. We will likely purchase a large (48' X 60') floor tarp to provide the perfect backdrop for this show – image not yet chosen.

In addition, we will be creating 8-10' long props that are obtuse triangular in shape. The long side would face down so they function as a little roof-top-shaped ramp, about 2-3' high in the middle. But they can also be flipped upside down and used like a teeter-totter. This would be symbolic of the balance/counter-balance concepts we will explore in the music. At some point, performers will play while balancing on top of these as they swing back and forth. (We are not currently planning to use the TJMC outdoor prop-platforms in any way this winter.)



In an effort to both save cost, and utilize money spent previously, we plan to re-use the uniforms/costumes from Winter 2020, which were only worn 2-3 times before the season was shut down prematurely. We will see how many of these fit and then purchase new ones to supplement for the remaining members. This includes everything except socks and shoes, which performers will provide (black TJMC marching band shoes). The picture to the left was the draft picture from that design and the lower picture shows a glimpse of the real thing – you see different sections in slightly different colors there. (We won't use the white one.)

If you are new to what we do, check out [this video of the 2018 TJDL](#) performing in the WGI World Championships Semi-Finals. We hope to return to Dayton this season to compete in the world championships again if FCPS allows! See also [this video of 2020 TJDL](#) (*fcps login required*) performing at the Virginia WGI Regional just before the Pandemic shutdown in 2020. We will be returning to this year's VA Regional. See [the WGI website](#) for more info on these events.

Staff



See details about our world class staff members on our website: [TJDL Staff Bios](#)

Typical Practice Day

A typical after-school rehearsal for the drum line is split between music and movement. Early season will be mostly on musical technique and show learning. Later in the



season, after a musical warm up, the drum line will move into the gym (our preferred venue) or the cafeteria and roll out the "floor" (a protective mat used to help protect the gym floor. It's also usually decoratively printed or painted to provide a backdrop for the show. We do not use one every season but will this year. Some time will be spent on marching and movement basics. The rest of the time is used to learn the show, or later in the season, to clean, perfect, and prepare the show for competition. The pit generally joins the battery later in the rehearsal for combined rehearsal with the full ensemble. Fundamental technique work is essential in the development of a performer so that they will become strong enough to handle a full show, so this is where emphasis is placed during the audition process.

Rehearsals usually end at 7:30 PM (depending on the day). **Please allow 15-20 minutes of clean up time afterward.** There are also usually 1-2 longer weekend camps of full-day rehearsals during which out-of-town staff members will travel to TJ to help us out. This vital extra time serves the same purpose as band camp does for TJMC, though it is a much smaller amount of time and sometimes split between multiple weekends/holidays, and is usually the time we finish learning our show. As such, absences from these weekend camps are very challenging to work around. ***Please be prepared to attend in full unless arrangements are made prior to enrollment.***

In total, this season's number of rehearsal hours are on par with the average athletic-team's expected hours of practice at TJ. We are hoping this will be enough to get the job done effectively while still allowing for a proper balance with all the other excellent things you are doing in your life.

Rehearsal Attire

For rehearsal, students should wear clothing that is easy to move in. Shoes should be comfortable but may be removed while on the floor tarp to protect it. Wearing thick socks is a good way to stay comfortable during long rehearsals if we do remove shoes. For battery members, jeans or other restrictive clothing is not conducive to proper movement technique, so dress accordingly.



Incidental Costs

Sticks and mallets are provided by the band and if they wear out through normal use, they will usually be replaced by the band. However, if they wear out due to misuse, the students will be responsible for buying their own replacements. Snare/tenor drummers sometimes provide their own sticks but should check with staff for brand and model before making any purchases. Students in the battery will need to supply their own stick tape (white electrical tape). Any members with concerns over these costs may request assistance as needed but they are unlikely to add up to very much.

Also, all members must have performance shoes for the uniform. Any returning members are encouraged to use their old shoes if they can. We will likely use the black TJMC shoes this season. If for some reason, someone ends up needing to purchase new shoes, they are generally around \$35-40 and will be yours to keep, but this is rare since there are many extra pairs in storage, or available to borrow from former TJMC members who aren't in TJDL.

Other costs are rare, but if members are ever asked to purchase something that they are not able/willing to pay for, please just let Mr. Ballard know and we'll work it out.

Communication

Traditionally, the drum line members communicate absences and conflicts to the staff by email and that will continue this year. Advance notice is to be given as dictated by the attendance policy to Mr. Ballard at SWBallard@fcps.edu. CC your section's staff too please. Any general questions may be directed to this way as well. Doesn't hurt to contact other group members with a quick text or other message if you're running late or unexpectedly absent. Just let us know what's going on!

When possible, face-to-face conversation is more efficient and less likely to be misunderstood than emails. If something is bugging you or impeding your success as a member or you need support in any other way, whether with drum line related things, or with school, or life in general, let's talk in person!

The students will be contacted as a group by the staff by group-email using your FCPSNET emails. We may also use the Charms-Office-Assistant, which gives you the ability to choose the email address we send to, and it will include at least one parent email. Those unfamiliar with Charms will be taken care of shortly after enrollment.



Most of our online materials will be posted on a Google-Drive folder. Schedules, music and drill will be posted there. .mp3 files will be provided as well if possible so that everyone can listen to the parts. Any music PDFs that are posted should be printed and brought to all rehearsals in a protective binder. Schedules and other important info will also be posted there.

Music files and videos should NEVER be posted anywhere else online or redistributed to outside parties by students at any time or you may be in violation of copyright laws! Please keep everything in-house. If someone wants to see it, invite them to a show!

Auditions

Any audition materials that we decide to use will be posted to the Google Drive, or handed out by hardcopy at TJ. Remember, multi-season senior expert or 100% freshman beginner... you will still be accepted into the group! This will just help show us what position within the group will best suit you. You may or may not be offered a spot on the instrument/section you hoped for but we hope you will embrace whatever role we believe fits you best. Often, a season spent in a particular role may serve as the perfect preparation for the role you may have actually wanted, if it wasn't what you got. The veteran members can attest to the value of this approach – few of them started on the instrument they currently play. If you want private lessons or other help prior to auditions, contact the staff and set it up! Please be prepared to compensate them for their time though, as you would for any private teacher.

Non-musician Members

It is often appropriate to include non-musician performers who play a visual or acting/speaking role, sometimes in conjunction with a musical role but not always. If you or someone you know may be interested, let us know! People who fill these rolls may have a more flexible attendance schedule. Any/all discussions will take place during the auditions prior to the initial enrollment process.

Let us know if you know a great candidate! Auditions for this may be a little more high-expectation than the regular musical-roles, so please use discretion with your suggestions. Please focus all recruitment efforts toward people not already considering color guard. We do not want to include a visual role within the drum line (or any role within the drum line) at the expense of the color guard membership.

