THE SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY
MUSTANG BAND
MEMBER’S HANDBOOK

2019-2020 EDITION

Official Handbook
for members of the
Mustang Band

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Introduction

The Mustang Band is a unique and historically rich organization. Its’ jazz-based instrumentation combines with the distinctive sound of its’ custom-arranged repertoire to make this group a favorite of sports fans and music lovers everywhere. The high-energy marching drills and the multiple uniform combinations enhance the band’s presentation, both at home and away; in fact, the Mustang Band is known far and wide as “The Best Dressed Band in the Land.” And the pervasive sense of esprit de corps coupled with an unfailing support of Southern Methodist University serves to make this group a truly indispensable fixture at many SMU events, and has earned it the title, “the Hub of SMU Spirit.”

Chapter I

Mustang Band Administration

Professional Staff

Don Hopkins is the Director of the Mustang Band, returning to the “Hilltop” in 2005. Don was a member of the Mustang Band in 1977-82, completing his Bachelor of Music at SMU. While at SMU he served as Mustang Band squad and section leader (trombone), section principal of the SMU Wind Ensemble and was one of the Mustang Band trombone soloists.

Don has always served as a head band director. His teaching assignments include Robert T. Hill Middle School (Dallas, TX) 1982-86, Dripping Springs High School (Dripping Springs, TX) 1986-93, Lubbock High School (Lubbock, TX) 1993-2002 and South Garland High School (Garland, TX) 2002-2005.

Tommy Tucker is the band’s Assistant Director and primary musical arranger. Tommy was a member of the Mustang Band in 1973-74, and returned to complete his degree from 1980-84. Upon graduation, he
served as the Staff Arranger and Assistant Director until 1988, then returned to the Hilltop in 1996.

Tommy has written arrangements for every Pigskin Revue except one since 1980, and has been the producer of the Revue since 1996. He was the Chief Arranger for the Dallas Cowboys Band from 1975-1986, and has for many years been a pianist, organist, composer and arranger for many church, civic and scholastic groups.

**Jon Lee** is the drum line instructor and percussion arranger for the Mustang Band and has been since 1995. Additionally, Jon is the Assistant Conductor of the Meadows Percussion Ensemble and teaches Percussion Techniques in the Meadows School of the Arts. Jon graduated with a Masters of Music Degree in Percussion Performance from the Meadows School of the Arts. He received a Bachelor of Music Degree from the University of North Texas, and has been accepted into the Doctor of Musical Arts program at UNT.

Jon is an active performer, educator, clinician, and adjudicator. He was a member of three PASIC national collegiate championship drum lines and was a member of the Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps. He has performed with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, East Texas Symphony Orchestra, Garland/Los Colinas Symphony Orchestra, Texas Wind Symphony, and Dallas Wind Symphony.
**Student Staff**

To facilitate the smooth operation of the Band, numerous responsibilities are delegated to Band members. These individuals have been selected because of their exemplary display of qualities such as leadership, cooperation, pride, and responsibility. **All band student leaders should command the respect and support of all band members.**

**Drum Major**

Providing leadership on and off the field is the role of the Drum Major. The Drum Major helps conduct field rehearsals and directs the band during halftime and pre-game shows. The Drum Major may also direct the band while in the stands at football and basketball games and at other appearances or functions at which the band may appear.

Any current band member in good standing may apply for the position of Drum Major. Auditions are held each spring.

**Section Leaders**

Section Leaders are responsible for their sections’ mastery of the music. They may be called on to conduct sectionals during regular band rehearsals or they may need to arrange a time outside of band for the
section to get together for some extra work or activities. They may also be called upon to ensure their section is properly represented at various gigs or events. **Section leaders will make sure each individual has his or her own copy of the music and is able to play their assigned part.**

Any band member may be selected to be a section leader after completing his or her first year.

**Squad Leaders**

Squad Leaders will be responsible for teaching marching drills during the season. They will also help teach new members the unique marching style of the Mustang Band and help “remind” returning members of the proper techniques. They should keep up with their squad members and be able to offer support when needed. **Squad leaders will make sure their squad members know and can properly execute all marching drills for that week.**

Any band member may be selected to be a squad leader after completing his or her first year.

**Uniform and Equipment Managers**

The Equipment Manager(s) will be responsible for issuing horns to individual band members prior to the first rehearsal and maintaining proper records throughout the year. He or she will also oversee the loading and unloading of all equipment needed for band trips. **Lost or damaged equipment should be reported immediately to the Equipment Manager – IN WRITING.**

The Uniform Manager(s) will be responsible for issuing a full set of uniform pieces to each band member, and making sure each item fits as properly as possible. Initial alterations will be done at the band’s expense. During the football season, the band will contract with a local cleaning service for care of the uniforms, also at the band’s expense. **Lost or damaged uniform pieces should be reported immediately to the Uniform Manager(s) – IN WRITING.**

Any band member may apply to be a Uniform or Equipment Manager after his or her first year.
Chapter II

Tradition and History

The tradition and history of the Mustang Band is a long and storied one – but the roots of all of it lie in the fact that the Mustang Band was the first college band in the nation to play jazz at football games. This long association with jazz and swing music has molded many of the traditions still maintained by the band. The band’s instrumentation (basically an expanded jazz band of brass instruments, saxophones, a drum line and a few piccolos) has allowed it to compete audibly with bands twice and three times its’ size. Many performances have featured (and will continue to feature) one or more soloists “taking a ride” during a designated section of a tune. These arrangements are not standard issue; since the early days, the band has been fortunate enough to have the vast majority of its’ repertoire arranged specifically to fits its’ instrumentation and style.

In addition, these jazz roots have contributed greatly to the band’s history. For example, during the 1930s and 1940s the band made regular appearances in vaudeville and concert venues across the country. Trips to football games in Pittsburgh, New York, Los Angeles and Columbus, Ohio found thousands of fans remaining long after the game to hear the band’s post-game concerts. Regular visits to Southwest Conference sites produced generations of followers, and as the Mustangs have shifted conference affiliations, the band has garnered new fans in new places.

As you can see, traveling has been a big part of Mustang Band tradition and history. The band has performed from coast to coast and beyond – from New York to Los Angeles to Honolulu and even Tokyo. Recently, trips have not been limited to football games. Basketball
tournaments have found the band in locations such as Reno, Las Vegas, Memphis, New Orleans, Orlando, Tucson, Norfolk, New York City and others.

Since 1933, another great tradition has been Pigskin Revue, a variety show presented at Homecoming each year. Featuring acts from SMU students, faculty, and alumni, the Revue allows the band to perform very different types of arrangements from those presented at athletic events. Besides the on-stage band, Mustang Band members assume many of the production and behind-the-scenes duties necessary for a successful show. This year's edition is scheduled for November 8 in McFarlin Auditorium.
Chapter III

General Information

Attendance Policies

Full participation is an absolute necessity for worthwhile rehearsals and, of course, for quality performances. With that in mind, everyone is expected to attend rehearsals and performances as scheduled, and to be properly prepared (e.g., music, instrument, etc.) to participate to the best of their abilities. **No absence from a performance or rehearsal will be excused without prior consultation with or notification of the directors.**

Football rehearsal absences (unexcused) will be dealt with as follows:

- First occurrence – 2 Mustang Band Reminders (to be completed at the next Thursday evening rehearsal)
- Second occurrence – 4 Mustang Band Reminders and a private consultation with the directors
- Third occurrence – A private consultation with the directors, resulting in sanctions to be determined; these may include suspension, loss of scholarship, and/or removal from the program.

Unexcused tardiness will be dealt with as follows:

- First 3 occurrences will be the equivalent of one unexcused absence (with consequences as outlined above)
- After that, two occurrences will equal one unexcused absence (with consequences as outlined above).

Any unexcused absence from a game performance will necessitate a private consultation with the directors and sanctions as determined to be appropriate.

Every member of the band will be expected to attend any bowl appearance earned by the football team.

Basketball Attendance

Mustang Band members are eligible to attend every home basketball game; however, each member will be required to attend a
minimum number of games during the year. This number will be announced when the final basketball schedule is released (typically early in the fall semester).

Failure to meet the minimum attendance requirements for basketball may affect one’s standing in the organization, and could result in loss or reduction of scholarships.

**Fall Rehearsal Schedule**

Preferred indoor rehearsal schedule will be Wednesday and Friday from 2:00-2:50 p.m. If this proves impossible to fit your schedule, additional sections are scheduled W-F from 11:00-11:50 a.m. or 1:00-1:50, p.m., or on Tuesday-Thursday from 2:00 to 3:20 p.m. **Marching rehearsals will be held Thursdays from 7:00-10:00 p.m. You must attend the weekly marching sessions; no exceptions.** Saturday “walk-throughs” will be held before each home football game at a time to be determined (typically 3 hours prior to kickoff).

All students participating in Mustang Band must be enrolled in one of the indoor rehearsal sections and the marching session, whether for credit or non-credit. Directors must be informed in writing of any potential class conflict prior to the beginning of the semester.

**Instruments**

The Mustang Band is first and foremost a musical organization; as such, the instruments are essential to the group’s success. Our silver-finish instruments are specially ordered to help coordinate the look and sound the band desires. The band will provide you with an instrument for your use during the school year. **Band-issued instruments are to be kept in the lockers provided in the rehearsal hall.**

Only band-issued instruments will be used for football performances. Please treat them as if you owned them personally, for they are expensive to repair and even more costly to replace. **Any problem with an instrument must be reported immediately to the Equipment Manager IN WRITING.** A replacement instrument may be temporarily issued if necessary.

Damage resulting from your negligence or irresponsibility may be repaired **at your expense.**
Music Folders

Each band member will be issued a music folder at the beginning of the year, and he/she will be expected to keep up with that folder. Additional music will be distributed throughout the fall and spring semesters. Make sure you receive your own copy of each new chart.

Except for weather-related phenomena occurring during a game or performance, there will be a charge to replace all lost or destroyed music. For your own sake, do not lend or give away any folders or music; IF SOMEONE ELSE LOSES YOUR MUSIC, YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE! Procedures for replacing lost parts will be announced in rehearsals.

Each band member must have his or her own folder of music at every rehearsal and performance.

Mustang Band Travel

All band members will keep in mind they are representing the University and the Mustang Band at all times while traveling with the band, and should conduct themselves accordingly.

This year, the full band is scheduled to make trips to Fort Worth (TCU) and Houston (Houston). “Full band” means “FULL BAND”: Every member will be expected to make these trips as well as any bowl appearance earned by the football team.

A smaller band (due to NCAA rules) also attends the conference basketball tournament(s) each year and will accompany the team(s) to any NCAA Tournament game(s). This year’s women’s conference tournament is
in Uncasville, Connecticut, March 6-9. The men’s tournament will be in Fort Worth, March 12-15. The band/University pays for transportation, lodging (when necessary) and meals during all sanctioned trips.

**Uniforms**

When he arrived as director in 1958, Dr. Irving Dreibrodt’s aim was to attract the attention of the fans who had come to watch the game, not the band. His philosophy was, “Catch their eyes and their ears will follow.” Eventually the band became known as “The Best Dressed Band in the Land”, assembling a wardrobe of over 30 different uniform combinations.

Each band member will be issued a complete set of uniforms, a garment bag and a cleaning bag. The uniforms will remain housed in the band hall. The uniform managers will prepare each member’s garment bag with the uniform parts needed for that week’s performance(s).

At the band’s expense, a cleaning service will be provided weekly during the football season. After each game or performance, the coats, slacks, and vests which were worn should be put into your cleaning bag and placed in the proper receptacle. If you FAIL TO DO THIS, you are responsible for making sure your uniform is clean and neat. Any band member who brings an obviously dirty uniform will not be permitted to perform.

Lost or damaged uniform pieces must be reported immediately to the Uniform Manager(s). Procedures for replacing or repairing lost or damaged items will be announced.

Additional charges may be assessed for replacement items or for damage resulting from negligence or misuse.

**Scholarships**

Mustang Band scholarships are available, and are awarded based on several factors. The player’s ability, the instrumentation needs of the band, and the total scholarship budget all help determine the amount offered to each member. If at all possible, every member receives at least a small amount of financial aid. In addition, the band can recommend incoming students for the “Mustang Award”, a University grant which is awarded annually. Band members must meet attendance requirements to receive and/or keep their scholarships.
Band Awards

At the end of each year, the band votes on several awards to be given to individual band members who have distinguished themselves during the year. These awards are: Outstanding Freshman, Outstanding Upperclassman, Most Spirited, and Mr./Ms. Mustang Band. Individuals are nominated for these awards and voted on by the entire membership.

In addition, there is the Jack Rohr Award, given to preserve the memory of the long-time arranger and assistant director of the band. Although he was usually in the background, Jack’s musical contributions to the marching field and especially to Pigskin Revue were critical to the band’s success. Therefore, this award is given to a graduating senior who has made a significant contribution to the band but may have been overlooked when awards and honors were being handed out. The recipient of this award is chosen by the directors.

Graduating seniors receive a monogrammed Mustang Band blanket and one “free” year’s membership in the Diamond M Club, our alumni and support organization. In addition, band members can purchase a specially designed “Diamond M” ring from a selection of available styles.
**Purpose**

Truly successful people say that knowing and focusing on a purpose helps them reach goals they never thought possible. The search for a “purpose” consumes many students during their collegiate years. Some find their purpose in careers that bring material wealth, while others find careers that allow them to do something they truly love. Some are fortunate enough to find both; some never find a purpose at all. Members of the Mustang Band have a distinct corporate purpose: plain and simple, it is to be the **Hub of SMU Spirit**.

A “hub” is a center from which everything radiates outward, the central foundation upon which everything else is built. Without a dependable hub, the structure collapses. Therefore, it is essential that the hub be solidly built, that it has its own solid foundation. Likewise, the Mustang Band has its foundation built upon the principles of **Loyalty, Pride, and Spirit**:

- **Loyalty** – to SMU, the Mustang Band, and especially to each other;
- **Pride** – in performance, in themselves, in the University, in this Band that has such a remarkable history; and
- **Spirit** – the character, fortitude, heart, and determination to attain the goals set forth (individually and as a group) and to inspire and encourage others to do the same.

In good times and bad, the band is always at the ready to bring pride and support to SMU teams, students, faculty, and alumni. Cheering the team on when the scoreboard is against us? Yes, the Band does that. Fighting through weather conditions that drive everyone else away? Yes, the Band does that. Giving up weekends, holidays, and school breaks to support the Mustangs? Yes, the Band does that. Reveling in applause for a performance well done? Yes, the Band does that. Enjoying a special camaraderie through one’s years at SMU that will extend decades beyond graduation? Yes, the Band does that, too.

An elite school or institution is often smaller than its rivals. Such is the case at SMU. Likewise, the Mustang Band is typically smaller than every band it confronts on the field. The reliance on these three cornerstones - Loyalty, Pride, and Spirit - is therefore paramount to ensuring the continued success of the Band. Our purpose is to prove at every opportunity that the Mustang Band is truly deserving of the title, “The Hub of SMU Spirit”.

**Nothing stops the Mustang Band!**