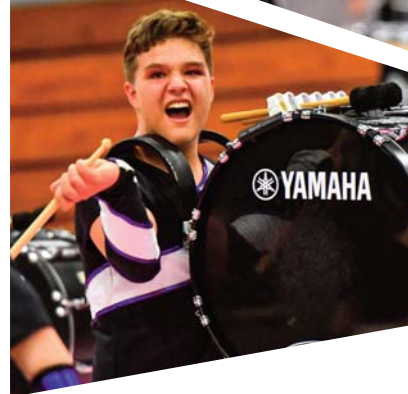




2020-2021  
SCHOOL  
YEAR  
PLAN



# Welcome to the USBands 2020-2021 Plan for the upcoming school year.



As the school year came to an end earlier this Spring, the USBands Team was full of cautious optimism for the Fall and a return to normalcy. We spent months working on plans for a full fall marching band season with the hopes that we would be able to once again return to the band rooms, practice fields and football stadiums to enjoy the rituals of Fall.

All throughout the planning process, we have been monitoring the health concerns in the 17 states in which we serve to determine the best way forward given the unique circumstances in each region, state and in some cases, areas within specific states.

After this period of exploration, research and conversations, USBands has agreed with the majority of educators for music programs to participate exclusively on the virtual **v-USBands** platform for the 2020 fall marching band season in lieu of in-person competitions.

**v-USBands** is an alternative format for music students to benefit from a meaningful and educational performing experience, while assisting music educators with flexibility and consistency for their fall plans. **v-USBands** allows for individuals, ensembles and bands from across the United States to prepare, perform and progress on a nationwide platform.

But **v-USBands** this fall is only the beginning!

USBands will be expanding Winter programs and offering a potential Spring Marching Series. **v-USBands** offerings in Performance + Education. Plus, a long-awaited return to stadium competitions in the Fall in 2021. Too much? Don't worry, we'll be hosting regular Town Halls to answer questions and listen to your feedback to make your experience with USBands convenient, efficient and productive.

During this unprecedented time, USBands has been on a journey to redefine and reimagine it's role in service to the scholastic music activity. Over the coming months, we will be announcing several bold and exciting initiatives that will allow us to move forward from this time of doubt and uncertainty, into a future full of optimism and opportunity for our students, parents and everyone who cares so much for the activity.

USBands dedicates itself to being a stronger, responsive and reliable partner for music educators to live into the full potential of the organization. We've come a long way, yet we have a long way to go. The first step begins with the fall of 2020 and how we can work and grow together to support, develop and celebrate the young people who make this activity extraordinary in every sense of the word.

## Fall Marching Band Season

- Music programs will participate exclusively on the virtual **v-USBands** platform for the 2020 fall marching band season in lieu of in-person competitions.
- 2020 Event Host deposits will be applied directly to a 2021 event (Spring or Fall)
- Virtual Town Halls to be held at the end of August state by state for Directors and Adjudicators. Interactive, engaging and efficient meetings to keep all up to speed on the latest happenings in USBands. Recorded for OnDemand access as well.

## v-USBands Performance

- Affordable digital competition platform for students to remain engaged with their music programs
- Providing programs structure and accountability from school administrations and parents for ongoing assessment
- Continuity and growth for individuals, ensembles and bands of all sizes and skill sets to experience meaningful musical participation throughout the fall.
- Based on the same educational philosophy as USBands with evaluations provided by accredited adjudicators
- All performances hosted on FloMarching for a limited time. *Read More on Page 4-5*

## v-USBands Education

- RealTime and OnDemand virtual classroom sessions and workshops
- Tap into the diverse educational talent available throughout the USBands community of adjudicators and partners.
- Sessions assist in bringing new voices and perspectives to students in a virtual or hybrid learning environment  
*Read More on Page 6*

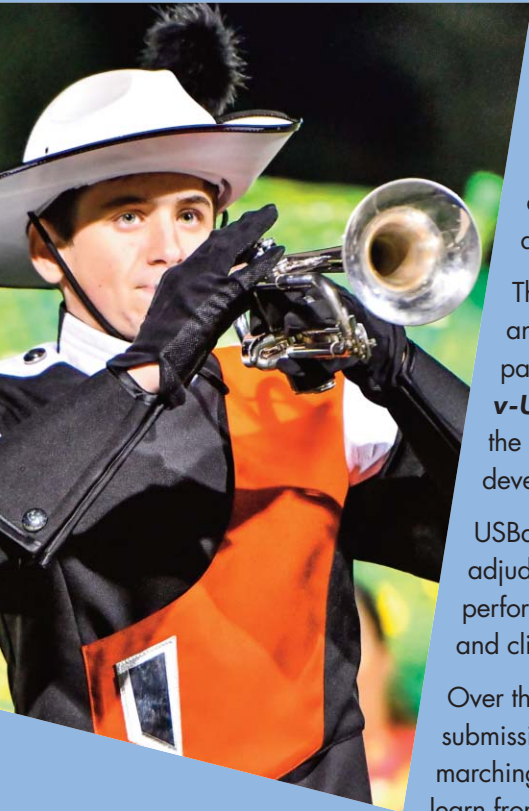
## 2021 Indoor Season

### Color Guard, Percussion & Winds

- October-December: Educational Clinics via Webinars for Directors, Designers, Instructors & Students
- February-March: In-Person events would be held in accordance with CDC and state and local guidelines and/or **v-USBands**

## 2021 Spring Marching Series

- Events held for those schools where football has been moved to the Spring or those programs who wish to provide a culminating marching experience for their 2020-21 band and graduating seniors
- Scheduled by state or region to provide a series of progressive, cumulative events
- Large showcase events possible at MetLife Stadium, Navy & Marine Corps Memorial Stadium or J. Birney Crum Stadium.
- Approximate dates of April 7-May 22 CDC guidelines permitting



In response to requests for safe and meaningful options and opportunities for the traditional high school marching band activities in the upcoming 2020 fall season, USBands presents **v-USBands**, an alternative digital competition platform for students to remain engaged with their music programs and providing those programs the structure and accountability needed from school administrations for ongoing assessment and continuity.

The **v-USBands** platform is a virtual option for individuals, ensembles and bands of all sizes and skill sets to experience meaningful musical participation throughout the fall. Band directors are encouraged to use **v-USBands** for their 2020 fall activities receiving weekly evaluations over the traditional 8-10 week USBands schedule to assist in student's development as an individual or member of an ensemble.

USBands has partnered with **e-Adjudicate**, the global leaders in online adjudication and evaluation, to deliver timely evaluations of individual performers, ensembles and full bands by experienced USBands adjudicators and clinicians.

Over the period of 8 weeks during the fall, performances from **v-USBands** submissions will be posted on **FloMarching** from individuals, ensembles and marching bands for parents, students, friends and extended family members to learn from and enjoy.

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**INDIVIDUAL** *Evaluated by 1 Adjudicator*

- Brass, Woodwind, Percussion, Visual
- Recommended performance times to be 2-4 minutes long; No timing penalties.

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**ENSEMBLE (UP TO 25 STUDENTS)** *Evaluated by 2 Adjudicators*

- Brass, Woodwind, Percussion (Front ensemble, Battery, Mixed), Visual, Mixed Ensembles
- Recommended performance times to be 2-4 minutes long; No timing penalties.
- Standstill and Marching options are available with drill, choreography and staging encouraged.

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**STANDSTILL AND PEP BANDS (26< STUDENTS)** *Evaluated by 2 Adjudicators*

- Recommended performance times to be 2-4 minutes long; No timing penalties.

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**MARCHING BANDS** *Evaluated by 3 Adjudicators*

- Division 1 (26-50 students)
- Division 2 (51-80 students)
- Division 3 (81< students)
- No minimum performance time or timing penalties
- Potential reclassification by September 1 and subsequent intervals based on submissions and enrollment

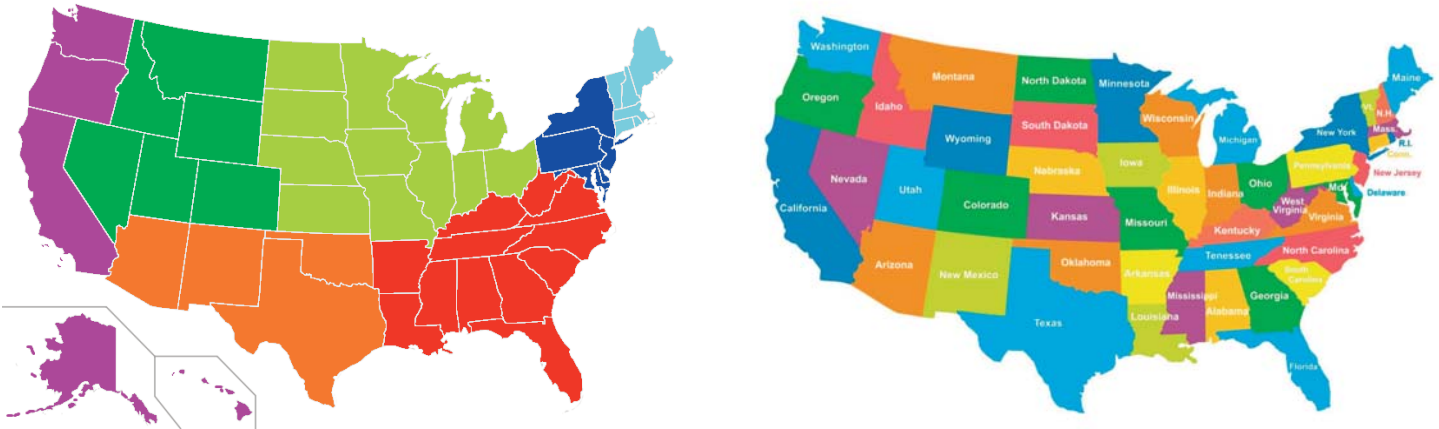
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**CREATIVE CLASS** *Evaluated by 2 Artistry Adjudicators*

- Any mixture of acoustic, digital, cross-genre and enhanced or processed performances are allowed

## Regional & State Segmentation

- Competition will be on a National Basis for Weeks 1-3 based on the number of submissions and Re-evaluated prior to Week 4
- 100-200 overall submissions will trigger Regional Competition
- More than 200 submissions will trigger State Competitions as well as State Championships Weekend



**PROJECTED REGIONS** • New England • Mid-Atlantic • Southeast • Midwest • Southwest • Mountain West • West

## Ratings & Results

- All results will be sent to Band Directors via email
- Post select results online
- Top 5 -10 per category
- Ratings only for all others
  - Gold, Silver, Bronze
- Pre-produced weekly Sunday night results video event on FloMarching

## Registration

Open Registration for all schools begins on or about Aug. 24

- Individual - \$25 per submission
- Ensemble – \$50 per submission
- Division I-2-3 Band – Inaugural Fee: \$85 per submission  
Regularly: \$100 per submission

EVENT	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	SUBMISSION DATE	ADJUDICATION DATES	FLOMARCHING DATES
FLOMarching Kick-Off	Tues Sept 15	Tues Sept. 22	Sept 22-Sept 25	Sept 26-27
Yamaha Cup	Tues Sept 22	Tues Sept 29	Sept 29-Oct 2	Oct 3-4
DeMoulin Invitational	Tues Sept 29	Tues Oct 6	Oct 6-Oct 9	Oct 10-11
Zildjian-Vic Firth Challenge	Tues Oct 6	Tues Oct 13	Oct 13-Oct 16	Oct 17-18
Remo Invitational	Tues Oct 13	Tues Oct 20	Oct 20-Oct 23	Oct 24-25
State Championships	Tues Oct 20	Tues Oct 27	Oct 27-Oct 30	Oct 31-Nov 1
National Championships	Tues Oct 27	Tues Nov 3	Nov 3-Nov 6	Nov 7-8
<b>v-USBands</b> Grand Finale	Tues Nov 3	Tues Nov 10	Nov 10-13	Nov 14-15

### Definitions

Registration Date: Date by which school confirms participation by individuals, ensembles and bands

Submission Date: Date by which all submissions from schools will need to be confirmed by e-Adjudicate. 12 noon Eastern Time.

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.

# Bring the expertise of USBands into your classroom and rehearsal



To provide meaningful musical experiences for students and to support the band director seeking to provide alternative activities in the classroom or for the extra-curricular band.

**v-USBands Virtual Education** will be an exclusive benefit to 2020-2021 Member Schools

- **REALTIME**

- Prepared Clinics or Workshops
  - USBands specialist in the music field
  - Yamaha Clinicians
  - Catalog of topics and issues
- Individual Consultation
  - In-depth adjudicator consult for marching or concert band
  - Feedback on current material
  - Separate and distinct from **v-USBands** Performance

- **ONDEMAND**

- Catalog of prerecorded, “Plug And Play” content for educators to focus on specific aspects and topics in developing their program

- **REGISTRATION FOR V-USBANDS** are as follows:

- Individual Clinician - \$100-\$150 per session
- Pre-Recorded Sessions - \$25-\$50 per session





# 2021 USBands Indoor Season

## COLOR GUARD • PERCUSSION • WINDS

October-December - Educational Clinics via Webinars for Directors, Designers, Instructors & Students

### Indoor Competitive Season

We are hopeful for traditional, in person, competition for Color Guard, Indoor Percussion and Winds. Regardless of school status, **v-USBands** will be available for the indoor season to give all groups the opportunity to perform.

### Indoor Timeline

October-December - Educational Clinics via Webinars for Directors, Designers, Instructors & Students (More information will be available in the coming weeks)

- February 6 FLOMarching Kick-Off
- February 13 Yamaha Cup
- February 20 DeMoulin Invitational
- February 27 Zildjian Challenge
- March 6 Vic Firth Challenge
- March 13 BAND Mobile App Showcase
- March 20 Regional/State Championships
- March 27 2021 Indoor Championships

### Individual/Ensembles and Full Units

**COLOR GUARD** - Opportunity for solo performers (rifle, saber, flag, dance) and smaller ensembles (2-8 students) and full units

**PERCUSSION** - Opportunity for solo performers (snare, quads, keyboard) and concert ensembles, standstill, small ensembles, and full ensembles.

**WINDS** - Opportunity for individuals, small ensembles, and full ensembles (standstill and marching), these ensembles do include accompanying percussionists.



# 2021 Fall Season Schedule Timeline

Nov. 1, 2020	Event Host Registration Begins
Feb. 1, 2021	Event Schedule Pre-Release
Feb. 15, 2021	Event Schedule Announcement
Mar. 1, 2021	Registration Open for USBands Member Schools
Mar. 4, 2021	National Sign-up Day

For more information please contact  
[Marching@usbands.org](mailto:Marching@usbands.org) or visit [USBands.org](http://USBands.org)



## Sponsors

