

## Pacific Crest Outreach Program Drum Corps at the Rose Bowl Study Guide

**We are so excited about your participation in the Pacific Crest Outreach Program!** If this is your first time at a live drum and bugle corps show, you are going to be blown away by what you see and hear. You may have seen shows on YouTube or other social media sites, but there's simply nothing that compares to seeing these performances live.

British composer, Malcolm Arnold, once said, "Music is the social act of communication among people, a gesture of friendship, the strongest there is."

Former NFL player, Dhani Jones said, "There's nothing better than live music. It's raw energy, and raw energy feeds the soul."



And famous cellist, Yo-Yo Ma said it simply: "One of the things I love about music is live performance."

You probably know that tickets to live performances can be expensive. **Thanks to your band director, however, your school is able to attend *Drum Corps at the Rose Bowl* as part of Pacific Crest's Outreach Program.** This is your chance to experience a live music event – a national performance competition – at one the World's most noted venues.

### WHAT IS DRUM CORPS?

A drum and bugle corps (often referred to as drum corps) is a musical marching unit consisting of brass, percussion, and color guard. They are not affiliated with high schools; however, like high schools, they perform at field show competitions as part of the Drum Corps International (DCI) summer tour.

The rules of DCI set the age limit for drum corps participation at 22, with most participants aged 15 - 21. You may be surprised to know that a majority of drum corps performers around the country are high school students – just like you!

Every year, each drum corps prepares a field show, 8–12 minutes in length, and carefully refines this throughout the entire summer tour. This focus on a single show takes advantage of the large amount of time needed to hone and refine a modern drum corps program.

There are three divisions of corps – SoundSport, Open Class, and World Class. While SoundSport and some Open Class corps stay closer to home or spend a few weeks on tour, the others spend their summers on a U.S. performance tour, that culminates at the DCI World Championships in Indianapolis's Lucas Oil Stadium.

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## **WHAT YOU WILL SEE AT THE ROSE BOWL STADIUM**

In a typical year – before COVID! – more than 1,500 performers from a dozen-plus drum corps would perform. This summer, the event will spotlight Southern California drum corps. The corps will perform their field shows as well as other works, including small ensembles and soloists.

Like a high school field competition, each drum corps production is unique. What defines drum corps, however, is the level of excellence generated by the passion of the performers. Every person on the field chooses to be there because they love to perform. There are no grades or P.E. credit. And these young people – your peers – pay dearly in tuition and time to experience the summer of a lifetime.

## **HOW TO WATCH A DRUM CORPS SHOW**

This is not a symphony concert. Drum corps performances are best with audience interaction and applause throughout. When you watch jazz, you clap for the soloists. At a drum corps performance, you clap, cheer, and stand whenever a show moves you! Whether it's an impressive solo, an amazing color guard moment, or deafening musical arrival, your response is enthusiastically encouraged. So, put away your phones, and allow yourself to be emotionally affected by the performance in real time.

## **POST-EVENT STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. How are drum and bugle corps similar to high school marching bands? In what ways are they different?
2. When you consider a nine-week summer tour of the United States, make a list of positive and negative aspects of being away from home that long.
3. List five words that best describe what you saw tonight.
4. What did you see tonight that you can take back to your own high school program?
5. List and describe three criteria used to evaluate an ensemble's musical performance.
6. Which corps had the best brass section. How did they achieve excellence in the three criteria you described above?
7. Which corps had the best percussion section. How did they achieve excellence in the three criteria you described above?
8. Which corps had the most entertaining show? What elements made their show the most entertaining?
9. Would you attend a drum corps show in the future? Why or why not?