

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

MEAN GREEN MARCHING MACHINE

MARCHING BAND HANDBOOK

2016-2017



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INTRODUCTION

This handbook contains information of interest to members and parents of students participating in university bands. Since its founding, the band has held an important place in the life of Mississippi Valley State University, and throughout the state of Mississippi. It has furnished music for athletic events, pep rallies, special university functions, and has presented concerts of a cultural, educational, and entertainment value to students, faculty, and the local community. No single student organization on campus has made a more consistent contribution to the life of the institution as the University Band. We are proud of the band's standing and service to the University, to its present and former members, and in contribution to music as a cultural force in and out of state. It is advised that this publication is reviewed and approved by all immediate supervisors for distribution. Members are required to read and adhere to all policies contained within this handbook.

Vision Statement

The University Bands, a unit within the Mississippi Valley State University Division of Student Affairs, will be one of the primary cultural resources serving the Mississippi Delta Region, providing quality music education and performance opportunities in a positive and nurturing environment. The band program will attract and retain a diverse student population that will become strong advocates and ambassadors for the University and productive professional musicians. The University Bands will continue to enhance educational and cultural opportunities in the arts and improve arts awareness and support in the region.

Mission Statement

The Mississippi Valley State University Band Program develops outstanding musicians through the medium of quality music designed for marching, concert, and small ensembles. The program aids in the social growth of its members, promoting good character and citizenship, and providing opportunities for community outreach and growth in leadership. The directors and staff foster excellence in academic and musical achievement, and prepare students to function successfully in a highly global, technical, and musical twenty-first century society.

Band History

For over 51 years, Mississippi Valley State University has displayed superiority in nurturing and developing men and women into the professional world. The university also boasts excellence in its university band, which is a system that includes both music majors and students from other academic disciplines. The Symphonic Band has displayed the finest in the performance of selected literature. The standard instrumentation has been a programmatic practice, along with innovation additions throughout the years. The Marching Band, known as the *Mean Green Marching Machine*, has performed a variety of genres, including Latin American, Soul, Rhythm and Blues, and more. The MGMM has a rich history of performance within the continental USA. Some of the historical performances of both groups include:

1962 Concert Band Tour	Northern Louisiana/Texas
1963 Concert Band Tour	Arkansas/Missouri
1963 Indianapolis 500 Festival Parade	Indianapolis, IN
1964 Concert Band Tour	Mississippi/Louisiana
1964 Indianapolis 500 Festival Parade	Indianapolis, IN
1965 Rose Bowl Parade	Pasadena, CA
1965 1 st Annual Summer Band Camp	MVSU Campus
1968 Rose Bowl Parade	Pasadena, CA
1968 Presidential Inaugural Parade- Richard Nixon	Washington, D.C.
1972 Braniff Airlines “Battle of the Bands” Winter	Dallas, TX
1977 Presidential Inaugural Parade (University Center’s “Mississippi Band” (25) from each University)	Washington, D.C.
1983 National Olympic Sports Festival (Parade and Pre-Pageant Ceremony Representing the Southern States) DRUMS OVER THE ROCKIES	Colorado Springs, CO and Denver, CO
1983 Heritage Classic- Mississippi Valley State/Tennessee State	Memphis, TN
1984 Circle City Classic (Inaugural)- Mississippi Valley State/Grambling State	Indianapolis, IN
1985 Circle City Classic- Mississippi Valley State/Tennessee State	Indianapolis, IN
1992 Official Honor Band- George Bush’s Presidential Visit	Jackson, MS
1994 Gateway Classic- Mississippi Valley State/Howard University	St. Louis, MO
1994 Martin Luther King National Parade	Chicago, IL
1995 Bud Billiken “Back to School” Parade	Chicago, IL
1999 100 Black Men Parade (Inaugural)	Greenville, MS
2005 Chicago Football Classic- Mississippi Valley State/University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff	Chicago, IL
2005 Mardi Gras Parade	New Orleans, LA
2006 Chicago Football Classic- Mississippi Valley State/University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff	Chicago, IL
2007 Chicago Football Classic- Mississippi Valley State/Southern University	Chicago, IL
2007 HBCU National Band Directors Consortium- 4 students participated in the All Star Symphonic Band	Atlanta, GA
2008 Governor Haley Barbour Inauguration	Jackson, MS
2008 NCAA Basketball Tournament- Mississippi Valley State/UCLA	Anaheim, CA
2014	(missing)
2015	(missing)
2016 Mardi Gras	New Orleans, LA
2016	El Paso, TX

2016 Inaugural Steel City Drumline Battle of the Bands	Gary, IN
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Biographical Sketch of Directors

Prior to 1961, records reflect that **Mr. Clifford Dewees Hodges** was band director. NO other information is listed on him and his accomplishments. Photographs show that the Marching Band and Jazz band had an active role in representing the University.

Since its rebirth in 1961, by **Russell Boone** (St. Louis native), this unit has reversed the total thinking philosophy of what school bands should present within the total performance package. As an innovator, Mr. Boone’s background with Drum Corps as a youth, and as a successful music educator in the public schools, the stage was set at Mississippi Valley State for his directorship to break new grounds for contemporary concepts in band.

The marching band was the first to break from the traditional marching band cliché to Drum Corps Style in 1961, by introducing “atmospheric ornamentation” and drill designs within the field show presentations. Halftime shows ran the gamut of standard marches, Show/Broadway musical tunes, classical excerpts, and popular selections.

O’Neill Sanford (Louisiana native) was director of the band for one year before departing for Virginia State University, University of Minnesota, University of Pittsburg, and Norfolk State University. During his tenure at MVSU, the band won the Braniff Airlines Battle of the Bands at Texas Stadium in the spring of 1973.

From 1973-2005, the university band was led by **Leonard E. Tramiel**, a MVSU alumnus and Shreveport, LA native. Prior to his appointment at MVSU, Tramiel was a band director, and teacher of music and Social Studies in the Fayette County School District (Fayette, AL), and Director of Bands and Instructor of Music in the Tuscaloosa City School District (Tuscaloosa, AL).

In August 2005, **Michael Torregano** (New Orleans, LA native) assumed leadership of the band program. He taught in the New Orleans Public Schools for 21 years prior to his appointment at MVSU. Torregano was succeeded by **Dr. Darryl Harris** (2011-2013), and **Blake Gaines** (2013-2016).

In July 2016, **Kenneth Milton, Sr.** assumed leadership of the University Bands. Milton has served for over 20 years in various capacities to include Trumpet Instructor and Associate Band Director at MVSU, prior to his current appointment. Under his leadership, the band continues to excel and serve as ambassadors for Mississippi Valley State University. Standing on a rich history, the band program aims to be the premier cultural resource serving the Mississippi Delta and surrounding regions.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

Band Organizational Units

“Mean Green Marching Machine”- The MGMM performs at all home and selected away football games. In addition to these functions, the band performs periodically at the Delta Band Festival and other similar type functions (parades, battle of the bands, etc.). The MGMM also consists of the **Satin Dolls** dance squad and the **Devil’s Angels** flag squad.

Symphonic Band and Small Ensembles- The marching band is divided into two additional categories: Symphonic Band and Small Ensembles (Woodwind, Brass). Members are selected and placed in each ensemble by the band director. The Symphonic Band plays a variety of literature representing various classical and contemporary genres. The band performs at special functions on and off campus, and is comprised of both music majors and students from other academic disciplines.

Pep Band- This group is made up of freshmen and sophomore band members. The pep band performs at all home basketball games, recruitment functions, and represents the university as a support group for the men’s and women’s basketball teams at the annual SWAC Basketball Tournament.

Requirements for Band Scholarships

All students expecting to receive a band scholarship must meet the expectations of the Department of University Bands as outlined in the scholarship contract. Eligibility will be reviewed each semester for renewal. The scholarship will only be renewed for a total of 10 semesters (5 school terms, not including summer terms). The award will be honored upon admission to the university, and is contingent upon the requirements listed below:

1. Full time enrollment (a minimum of 12 semesters hours)
2. Maintain an overall 2.5 grade point average (GPA)
3. Maintain a grade of A or B in your area of major concentration (**music majors**)
4. Applied lessons in your area of major concentration for 8 semesters (**music majors**)
5. Participation in assigned major ensemble(s) with a grade of A or B
6. Perfect attendance at all performances (absences must be officially excused by the director)
7. Twenty-five dollars per occurrence will be deducted for each unexcused rehearsal.
8. Five hundred dollars per occurrence will be deducted for each unexcused absence at a performance.
9. Demonstrate professional conduct an attendance at all rehearsals and performances.
10. Demonstrate proper conduct, behavior, and exemplary scholastic progress and personal achievement acceptable and expected of band scholarship recipients.

Academic Credit for Band Class

All band members are required to register for the University Band class each semester of participation. This requirement is mandated regardless of academic major. This will be verified each semester, especially for scholarship recipients.

Requirements for Student Leadership Positions

Section leaders are assigned to each section of the band, and will be selected prior to the beginning of the new season/year. Leadership roles are as follows:

Drum Major

Drum Majors serve as commanders on and off the field, and are responsible for ensuring the band as a unit performs with accuracy, precision, discipline, presence, and good showmanship.

Section Leaders and Captains

Section leaders and captains serve as role models in their respective sections, and assist all members with learning music and their field routines. Leaders are responsible for communicating with members about rehearsals, music expectations, and performance specifics. They are also responsible for facilitating sectionals and providing additional assistance to members in the section who may have difficulty with music or marching.

Band Managers

Band managers serve in a supporting role for the band program, and work in a variety of areas, to include: medical, uniforms, clerical and administrative, and equipment.

The following criteria are used to select band members for student leadership positions within the university band:

1. University required GPA
2. Positive attitude and attending rehearsal, performances, and meetings
3. Continuous band participation regardless of academic year
4. Positive student record in the Dean of Students' Office
5. Being knowledgeable and efficient in carrying out the regulations and policies of the band
6. Band scholarship eligibility
7. Musical proficiency
8. Being knowledgeable and proficient in executing marching fundamentals

Student Arrangers

Student arrangers are responsible for composing, arranging, and transcribing musical charts for the University Marching Band and Pep Band. Assignments are given by the band directors, and may include a variety of genres for various uses. Student arrangers are working in a voluntary position, and will not be compensated for their work. They will; however, receive letters of recommendation and can utilize their written works to create a marketable portfolio, for use as a part of admissions packets for graduate school, or for employment purposes after graduation.

Chain of Command

Communication is important when dealing with a large group of people. The Department of University Bands has an “open door policy.” Concerns related to scholarships, rehearsal procedure, adult/student staff, etc. should be reported to the band director **first**, prior to going to any other office. This will assure the solution is fair and all parties have been properly informed from start to finish. Major concerns related to daily band operations should be relayed directly to the band office by the Drum Majors or Section Leaders to the Director(s). If needed, an appointment will be arranged for discussion and reaching a solution. Minor issues should be resolved by Section Leaders or Drum Majors.

Music

Each student is responsible for the music assigned to him/her. No music or identification marking should be changed, torn or scratched. Any markings on the music should be done in pencil. Members of the band are encouraged to check out solo or ensemble literature and technique studies from the music library to improve his or her playing. Symphonic Band members may take music folios home to practice, but are responsible for bringing the folio back the next day.

University-Owned/Personally-Owned Instruments or Equipment

The university owns instruments which are furnished for each band unit. The procedure for check-out, use and maintenance, and check-in as outlined on the equipment form must be adhered to. Each university instrument will be assigned to one person only, and it is their responsibility to keep up with the instrument and any accessories checked out to them. Ligatures, Mouthpieces, and tuba necks and bits will not be furnished by the university. Members causing damage to, or losing any university-owned instruments will be charged appropriately for the loss.

Uniform Regulations

Mississippi Valley State University Bands have displayed the very finest in how a university band should appear. Marching band participants are furnished the following uniform items:

1. Headgear (Shako and Plume)
2. Gloves
3. Spats
4. Uniform

Any item lost or mutilated belonging to the university will be charged to the student at the current purchasing price. In general, the university pays for all university-owned cleaning of uniforms. If unnecessary cleanings occur, it becomes the responsibility of the student.

Bandsmen should be aware of the following concerning the general wearing or maintenance of university-owned uniforms.

1. Spats and gloves should be washed after each performance
2. Band members must be well groomed at all times. Those with long hair should ensure hair is tucked completely under the band shako, and should not hang over the neckline
3. Smoking in uniform/ranks/formation is prohibited

4. Shoes should be kept clean and maintained. Leather shoes should be shined to a high gloss for each performance
5. No earrings will be worn by males or females in uniform (**exception: Auxiliary squads**)
6. Uniforms are checked in after each performance

Alcohol and Drug Policy

The MVSU Band Program exercises a zero tolerance policy concerning the consumption of alcohol and drugs. Any band member who is caught drinking, using illegal drugs, report to rehearsal or performances intoxicated or high, on campus or on trips; will be immediately dismissed from the band program. Violators will also forfeit all band awards, and may be recommended for suspension or expulsion from the university.

State of Mississippi Hazing Law

§ 97-3-105 - Hazing; initiation into organization

(1) A person is guilty of hazing in the first degree when, in the course of another person's initiation into or affiliation with any organization, he intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person and thereby causes such injury.

(2) Any person violating the provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$ 2,000.00) or imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six (6) months, or both.

(3) A person is guilty of hazing in the second degree when, in the course of another person's initiation into or affiliation with any organization, he intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person.

(4) Any person violating the provisions of subsection (3) of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$ 1,000.00).

(5) The provisions of this section shall be in addition to other criminal laws, and actions taken pursuant to this section shall not bar prosecutions for other violations of criminal law.

Band members accused of hazing will be immediately reported to the local police department and dismissed from the band. Students dismissed from the band for hazing will not be readmitted into the band and will forfeit all band awards.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Members of the band program will be required to conduct themselves in a manner that does not tarnish the image of the program or Mississippi Valley State University. **Verbal, physical abuse, hazing, or intentional damage to school property or the personal property of fellow students, faculty or staff, would be considered cause for immediate dismissal from the band program and recommendation for suspension or expulsion from the university.**

Rehearsals

Practice is the most important phase of the band program. Attendance is required in order to perform in the band. Anyone that must miss a rehearsal must present an official written excuse from the Office of Student Affairs to the Band Director within 48 hours of the occurrence.

In order to make your band a successful organization, strict adherence to the following principles is expected:

1. Observe the rules of the band regarding punctuality, attendance, and discipline.
2. Requests for excuses must be executed with appropriate signatures as stated above.
3. Tune instruments accurately. Listen!
4. Arrange music in the sequential order listed before the rehearsal hour.
5. Observe traits of a good musician.
6. Hold the instrument correctly for better performance and appearance.
7. Keep feet flat on the floor during music rehearsals with proper posture.
8. Individual practice and tuning is permissible only when the conductor is away from the podium.
9. When the conductor enters the rehearsal hall and/or takes the podium, all talking and playing shall cease.

Rehearsal Decorum

1. Cell phone usage is not permitted during rehearsal
2. Proper dress code for rehearsal (white shirts, black shorts) must be adhered to at all times
3. Hats and du-rags are not to be worn in the band room. Hats are permissible on the field to deflect sun rays.
4. Section leaders should report to the drill field early enough to encourage members to move promptly into formation.
5. Leaders should consult with the band director prior to each drill rehearsal for instruction on the sequence of the order of drill
6. When the band is divided into ranks or sectional drill, drum majors should patrol each section and monitor, as well as, make corrections.
7. Leaders shall enforce the principles of discipline at all times.

Personal Practice

Band members are encouraged to engage in individual practice daily. Warmups and fundamental technique studies should be implemented in each practice session, and students are encouraged to practice at least 1 hour a day. Practice rooms are provided for student use in the Walter Sillers Fine Arts Building.

Public Appearance and Travel Regulations

Members of the university band are ambassadors for Mississippi Valley State University. All members are required to follow the assigned dress code for each rehearsal and performance. Home appearances are just as important as travel appearances. Travel rosters are provided early enough so that each student will be comfortable. When preparing to travel, all members must adhere to the itinerary for report time and loading information. Students must travel in the designated attire as determined by the band director. Hats and du-rags are never permitted on any band trips.

MVSU Alma Mater

Hail to thee, our Alma Mater
Colors Green and White,
MVSU, our sons and daughters
Always stand for right.
We will love and cherish thee
Throughout all our lives
Green and White we will honor
Keeping standards high.
When the days of joy and laughter
Fade upon our sight,
We will love our Alma Mater
Dear old Green and White.

CHORUS:

Grateful, loyal, true, and faithful
We will be true,
May thy name be everlasting
Dear old MVSU.

MVSU "Fight Song" (*Devil's Gun*)

Fee fie fo fum
We're looking down the barrel
Of the devil's gun
Nowhere to run
We've gotta make the stand
Against the devil's gun