

Wind Ensemble • Symphonic Band • Cornhusker Marching Band • Jazz Ensembles • Big Red Express • Campus Bands

University of Nebraska–Lincoln School of Music in the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts

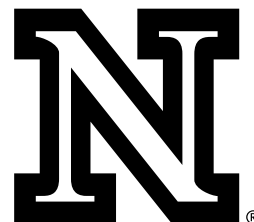
2012 Band Auditions

The School of Music at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln enthusiastically invites all students, regardless of academic major, to participate in one or more of our bands.

www.unl.edu/band
music.unl.edu/

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SCHOOL OF MUSIC



The University of Nebraska–Lincoln is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to be a music major to participate in a band at UNL?

No. The School of Music encourages all UNL students, regardless of academic major, to participate in an ensemble.

What are my chances for being accepted into a band?

If you have good basic skills and have prepared well for your audition, you have a better than average chance of passing. You have no chance at all if you don't audition.

Does participating in a band take a lot of time?

Each ensemble has a distinct schedule of rehearsals and performances.

- The Marching Band rehearses for a total of 6.5 hours during the week. The rehearsals are early in the morning so class conflicts are relatively rare. There are usually six to seven home games every season and the full band usually makes one weekend trip to a road game.
- The Big Red Express rehearses for two hours once a week through mid October. Once the music book is established the band will rehearse only to add additional tunes. Each band member performs only 1/3 of the band's schedule. Only 30 to 60 of the 90 members perform at any one game since the Big Red Express is a rotating pool band.
- The Jazz Ensemble I rehearses 2.5 hours per week and performs two or three times per semester. Regular sectional rehearsals and occasional dress rehearsals are called in addition to the regular rehearsal time.
- The Jazz Ensemble II rehearses 3 hours per week and performs two or three times per semester. Occasional dress rehearsals are called in addition to the regular rehearsal time.
- The Wind Ensemble rehearses for 4 hours each week and performs two to three concerts each semester. Members of this ensemble must devote considerable time to private practice in preparation for rehearsals. Occasional sectional rehearsals are called in addition to the regular rehearsal time.
- The Symphonic Band rehearses 3 hours each week and performs two or three times per semester. Members of this band are strongly encouraged to devote time to private practice in preparation for rehearsals.
- Each Campus Band rehearses for two hours once a week during the spring semester only. Both bands perform one concert. Private practice time is strongly encouraged.

Should I participate in a band during my freshman year?

Absolutely. You'll be a happier person and a better student if you are participating in a campus organization. It is essential that you become involved in the campus community whether you choose a band, a church group, intramural sports, or an academic club. Involvement in the University community will:

- Help you build a network of friends
- Help you sustain a positive outlook in your approach to your academic life
- Provide a source of academic support and advice no matter what your major
- Build memories of your college years that will last a lifetime

How much does it cost to be in a band?

Each of the band ensembles is a one credit hour course and you must pay tuition for that course. If you perform in more than one band per semester you may take the second band for zero credit. That band would appear on your grade transcript but would not figure into your GPA and you would not pay tuition. In most cases, the University pays the travel expenses for all of the bands and provides the uniform and some instruments for the marching band.

- Marching band members must purchase shoes, gloves and some small personal items, and pay for uniform cleaning.
- Members of the concert and jazz ensembles must provide their own concert attire
- Big Red Express pep band members must purchase a band shirt
- The University owns some instruments that students may rent for a minimal fee

Call 402/472-2505 or e-mail band@unl.edu if you have additional questions.

Athletic Bands

Big Red Express

What is it? The Big Red Express is a group of 90 musicians that perform at the Men's and Women's Basketball games as well as the Women's Volleyball matches. The band also performs for selected special events on and off campus. Members of the band must be full-time students (12 credit hours), must maintain a cumulative 2.0 GPA. Students receive a scholarship for each semester of participation.

How do I join? Students who are candidates for the Cornhusker Marching Band have the option of counting their first round marching band audition (see marching band information) as their Big Red Express audition. Additional Big Red Express auditions take place during the first week of classes in August with the results posted soon after. The August audition schedule will be available at the end of July. Appointments can be made by calling the Band Office at 402/472-2505 or in person.



- Candidates must perform *There Is No Place Like Nebraska* from memory. Parts are available from the Band Office and can also be downloaded from the band web site at www.unl.edu/band/bigredexpress_audition.shtml.
- Brass and woodwind players must also play a major scale.
- Rhythm and keyboard players must play a solo of their own choosing.
- All candidates will be asked to sight read a short excerpt.
- Recorded auditions must include *There Is No Place Like Nebraska* and a major scale to the range of the instrument. Students submitting a recorded audition do not need to include sight reading.



Cornhusker Marching Band

What is it? Founded in 1879, the "Marching Red" is one of the oldest and most well known collegiate marching bands in the United States. The Marching Red is one of the most well traveled bands in the country having participated in all of the major bowl games. The Cornhusker Band has also made several international tours, visiting continental Europe and Ireland. All members of the Cornhusker Marching Band must be enrolled as full-time students at UNL and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or greater.

How do I join? Candidates for the Cornhusker Band's woodwind, brass and percussion sections must complete a two-part audition process. First round audition appointments may be made by calling the Band Office at 402/472-2505 or by returning the attached application form. An audition for admission to the School of Music as a music major or minor may also count as a first round marching band audition as long as it is

played on the same instrument the student plans to play in marching band. Playing auditions for those not planning to major in music are held in the spring.

- Candidates should prepare a solo or etude of two to four minutes in length. The choice of music is up to the candidate and should be something that the individual is comfortable playing.
- Brass and woodwind players must also sight read and play a major scale.
- Students auditioning for piccolo positions may play the first round audition on flute.
- Students auditioning for marching horn, baritone and tuba positions may use their concert instruments for the first round audition.
- Recorded auditions must include a solo or etude of two to four minutes in length and a major scale played to the range of the instrument. Students submitting a recorded audition do not need to include sight reading.

Percussion students may choose to participate in an all-day preparatory mini-camp that also counts as the first round audition. The session is designed to show how the percussion section plays so that candidates will know how to prepare for the second round of auditions. Both new and veteran students are encouraged to attend. No final instrumentation decisions are made during the mini-camp.

Color guard students must complete a first round audition in the spring or early summer. Color guard candidates are not required to choreograph routines. All on-site audition materials, routines and music are provided and taught by the UNL band staff. Practice time is built into the schedule so

that candidates can become familiar with the routines. The routine involves both flag work and dance. Video taped auditions are acceptable if an on-campus audition is impossible. Performance tapes are not accepted for color guard auditions. Please frame the video camera so that both the hands and feet are visible at all times and wear relatively form-fitting clothing so that body moves and position can be adequately evaluated. Please include:

- 16 counts of drop spins with both right and left hand
- 16 counts of double time with both right and left hand
- Two parallel tosses and two 3/4 tosses
- 32 counts of 8 to 5 marching and 16 counts of jazz run
- One 32 count phrase with movements chosen by the candidate

Second round auditions are held in August for brass, woodwinds, percussion, and color guard. A detailed marching audition schedule is mailed in late June to those individuals who have passed the first round audition. Wind players must memorize two fight songs (music provided by the band program in the June mailing) and complete a group marching audition. The marching routine is taught during a two-day preparatory period prior to the audition.



Twirlers are expected to complete a single audition that takes place in the spring. While a video taped audition is acceptable, a live audition is preferred. Elements include:

- A two to four minute routine utilizing more than one piece of equipment choreographed to the candidate's choice of music

2012 Marching Band & Big Red Express Audition Dates

First round audition dates:

Saturday, March 31 & Saturday, May 26, color guard audition sessions (pick one).

Saturday, April 28, 1:00-4:00 PM, twirler auditions.

Saturday, April 28 (morning), brass, woodwind and percussion individual auditions.

Saturday, May 12, brass, woodwind and percussion individual auditions.

Saturday, May 19, brass and woodwind individual auditions; percussion mini-camp

More information about band auditions is available at www.unl.edu/band/auditions.shtml. Request an audition appointment at: www.unl.edu/band/forms/audition_request.shtml. Second round auditions will be held in August for those passing the first round audition.

Concert Bands



Wind Ensemble

What is it? The UNL Wind Ensemble is the premiere wind band and one of the most active performance ensembles in the band program. Literature performed by the Wind Ensemble is of the highest level and includes both contemporary works as well as the standards of the repertory. The Wind Ensemble frequently tours and performs for regional, national and international convention programs.

How do I join? Membership is determined by a juried audition that takes place during the first week of classes in August for the fall semester and in December for the spring semester. Audition music is available on-line in May and November at www.unl.edu/band and can be obtained from the School of Music's instrumental music faculty or from the Band Office.

Symphonic Band

What is it? The Symphonic Band has the distinction of being the band program's top symphonic ensemble. Its select mission is to provide instrumentalists with an opportunity to demonstrate and develop the techniques and musical instincts appropriate to a symphonic setting. With an emphasis on the distinctive characteristics of the large wind and percussion ensemble, the Symphonic Band's repertoire is culled from

the rich resources of the wind band tradition.

How do I join? Membership is determined by a juried audition that takes place during the first week of classes in August for the fall semester and in December for the spring semester. Audition music is available on-line in May and November at www.unl.edu/band and can be obtained from the School of Music's instrumental music faculty or from the Band Office.

Campus Bands

What are they? The Campus Bands are the University's most diverse concert bands. Students from many programs of study representing the complete spectrum of musical training comprise these ensembles. The Campus Bands meet during the spring semester, each with its own section number.

How do I join? There is no audition for membership; a love of band music is all that's required. Register for the class section of your choice (either Tuesday night or Thursday night) and attend rehearsals beginning the first week of classes in January. Each section performs one concert per semester.



Jazz

Jazz Ensembles Orchestra and Jazz Big Band

What are they? Jazz Orchestra is UNL's showcase jazz organization and one of the School of Music's most visible performing groups. The ensemble performs a variety of styles of music from standard works by Duke Ellington and Fletcher Henderson to the contemporary composers of today. The group has participated in a number of national festivals and has performed on Jazz Set hosted by Branford Marsalis. In 2006, Jazz Orchestra released their first featured recording, *Minimal Effort*, which has received critical acclaim. Their second CD, *Beyond the Plains*, was released in 2008.



The Jazz Big Band is a vital component of the UNL jazz curriculum. Through intensive rehearsal and performance, students are encouraged to develop and nurture the fundamental skills necessary to perform a wide variety of repertoire, and to engage in the creative process through improvisation.

How do I join? Membership in these bands is determined by audition at the beginning of each semester. Audition music and schedule information is available on-line in May and November at www.unl.edu/band/.

Band Faculty

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