

## **2010 FVHS MARCHING BENGALS: "All in the Cards"**

Sheet music, audio files and warm-up/technique materials for the 2010 Marching Bengals are listed beneath the instructions below. For now this is WIND PARTS ONLY. Percussion parts are coming later this summer. You'll need to scroll down to find the links to the wind parts.

- Click on the .zip file for your instrument to download the packet. The files are fairly large (20+ MB for some instruments and 35+ MB for others), so be patient as your packet downloads.

- Once downloaded to your computer, double-click on the file to "unzip" it. Your operating system should automatically unzip it. If you have trouble, try a Google search on dealing with .zip files for your computer operating system or contacting a computer-savvy friend for assistance. Contact Mr. Edwards as a last resort.

- Once you've downloaded the complete .zip file and unzipped it, read and follow the instructions below.

1) Get your instrument out of its case and prep it to play. No...really...do it.

2) Set up your music stand, pencil, metronome and tuner.

- No tuner? Using a Mac? Download Tuna Pitch at

<http://www.macupdate.com/info.php/id/33029/tuna-pitch>.

There's also a Tuna Pitch app for the iPad and iPhone/Touch.

- No tuner? Using Windows? Download "E" Chromatic Tuner at

<http://www.tucows.com/preview/503218/The-e-Chromatic-Tuner?q=Chromatic+tuner>.

- No metronome? Point your browser to <http://metronomeonline.com/>.

- You can also download free metronomes and tuners for iPhone and Android devices!

3) Come back to the computer and find the "unzipped" folder with your instrument's name on it ("Alto Sax", "Trumpet").

Inside this folder will be 3 more folders:

- Show Music Audio

- Show Music Parts

- Warm-up and Technique

The Show Music Audio folder has many .mp3 audio files inside designed to help you understand how your part works and how it should fit with the other parts. You should use them while practicing to help you prepare and memorize your part. All audio files are in .mp3 format and will load directly into Windows Media Player, iTunes, WinAmp and any other computer-based media software. They can also be burned onto a CD.

4) Double-click on the "Show Music Audio" folder. You should see five more folders: "Movement 1", "Movement 2" and so on up to "Movement 5".

5) Double-click on "Movement 2". Flute, saxophone, mellophone and tuba players will see 5 audio files. Clarinet, trumpet and trombone/euphonium players will see 9 audio files. Because there are two parts each for clarinet, trumpet and trombone/euph there are sound files for the first and second part for each instrument. Flutes, saxes, mellos and tubas have one part each.

One sound file says "Full Ensemble" in the title. This is a synthesized recording of all the parts for the movement.

**All the other parts are recordings of YOUR part with a click-track (metronome) in the background.** This is just like the CD that you used with your middle school method book where you got to hear your part for each line in the book.

**USE THESE SOUND FILES WHILE YOU PRACTICE! It will make it much easier to learn your music.**

***I can't emphasize this enough. Please, please, please use these sound files while you practice.***

***To figure out what's going on, look at the file name:***

"AITC" = All in the Cards - the show title!

"Mvt 2" = Movement 2 - that's the movement we're listening to

"80%", "Full", etc = The tempo of the sound file

"Clar2", "ASx", etc = The name of the part

Why are there recordings at different tempos? When you practice, you should learn the part at a slow tempo, then gradually speed up.

SLOW PRACTICE = FAST IMPROVEMENT

Yes, the slow tempos are **very** slow. Sometimes students complain "I can't play it that slow". Nonsense. **If you can't play it that slow, you can't play it.** The old musician's joke is that we like fast tempos because the wrong notes go

by faster! Honestly, we often play things too fast when we practice and the mistakes go by too quickly to hear or feel. Practice slower than you think you need to and two things will happen:

- you'll be surprised at how much more you'll notice in your playing (both *hearing* and *feeling*)
- you'll fix errors much more quickly

If you never practice slowly (or don't ever practice...) you might get frustrated at first. You'll hear all sorts of mistakes - missed notes, wrong rhythms, missed articulations and so on. You might think "This doesn't sound right. My part doesn't 'go like this'". Your goal should be to learn your part accurately and efficiently. The best way to do that is to start VERY slow (use the slowest tempo available for each movement if you're playing with the recording) and gradually build up. If you're really having trouble, play a measure note by note like everything is a half note! This really helps, especially if you're a brass player trying to get the correct partials. This will probably feel like it takes longer at the beginning, but you must have faith that it will pay off in the long run.

So...now that we know how we're going to practice, where's the music so we can get to it? Go back out to the "Show Music Parts" folder and double-click on it. You'll see parts for each movement. Again, some instruments will have 1st and 2nd parts for each movement while other won't. Print these parts out. They will be full-size parts on 8 1/2" x 11" paper much like your sheet music for band class. You can mark these parts up however you need. Write in counting syllables, note names, circle key signatures and so on. I'll give out flip-folder size parts when you arrive at Band Camp.

Learn your part for movement 1, 2 and 3 before camp. MEMORIZE MOVEMENT 1. If you've never memorized music before, this will be a nice, easy way to get started. The first movement is about 30 seconds long and will be easy to memorize. I gave tips on how to memorize in the marching band packet we mailed to your house. Find it and read it if you have trouble.

**••• Don't forget to count your rests! •••**

Counting rests carefully is very important with this music. Lots and lots and lots of problems happen when people don't know when to come back in after a rest. Memorizing your part means memorizing ALL of it. Memorizing rests will help you play the music correctly (duh...) but will also help you as we learn our drill. You'll see how the drill and other people's parts fit within your rests once Camp starts.

6) Go back to the "Warm-Up and Technique folder" and double-click on it. You'll have the following items:

- **"FoundLongTone..."** = Long Tones for your instrument. MEMORIZE THESE BEFORE CAMP. If there are notes you don't know, get out your method book fingering chart or find a quality fingering chart online and learn them. **Veterans**, notice that this version of the Long Tones has been updated to include Long Tone 1E.

- **"MB Scales"** = 6 major scales, 2 minor scales and a 2-octave chromatic scale. Learn these before camp if you don't already know them. If you're not so good with scales, write in letter names wherever you need to. CHECK YOUR KEY SIGNATURE so you don't practice wrong notes.

- **"Style Exercise"** = Also called the Note Length Exercise. A very important exercise we use to learn how to play in various styles (staccato, accented and so on) and to match each other's note lengths. Freshmen should carefully read the explanations of each style and make sure you understand the rhythms involved before you get to Band Camp.

- **"WU Sets..."** = Warm-Up Sets. These help us build technique. Pick one set and play 2 options each time you practice. Woodwinds should vary the articulation, such as slurring all notes in each measure, slur 2 notes and tongue 2 notes and so on. The Warm-Up Sets ARE in flip-folder size, so you can cut them out and put them in your flip folder whenever you want.

7) Print them out.

Thanks for reading all this. **Having good practice habits means you get more out of your practice sessions. You get better faster.** You'll also be better prepared, which means your peers will learn that they can count on you. When everyone is prepared and trusts one another, we start building confidence and are on our way to a great season. Success takes each one of us doing our part, so break out your horn and get started!