

Chocolate milk shortage makes local Kilties nervous ahead of new season

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Opinion: Water is not a beverage, so it should not be a choice for ICBs

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Kilties take home gold at second annual Standing Marching Band Olympics

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Kiltie Scattershow 2022 review: a breathtaking experience for all

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THE KILTIE TIMES

CMU Kiltie Band
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To the Kiltie Band, from your director

Hello my keen Kilties, I hope you are all having a productive, restful, and enjoyable summer filled with safe travels, memorable new experiences, and even a day or two of practicing your instrument to ensure it is still in working order for the upcoming 2023-2024 Kiltie Band season! I spent much of my summer traveling, from

Toronto, CA to Hawaii and places between, while sharing our unique and successful approach to the “marching” arts with other band directors along the way who were looking to up their game... and dynamics!

Back in western PA, the officer team and I are working hard, remotely and in person, to prepare for an amazing

first rehearsal and start to the football season. Recruitment efforts are ongoing, some new instruments have been ordered and delivered (with functional tuning slides), uniform kilts and jackets have been cleaned and pressed to help us look our best on the field (including 11 new jackets in some desperately needed smaller sizes), band

letterman jackets and new/additional first-year hats are in and ready to distribute, and the band room has acquired some updated organizational supplies to help us keep things running smoothly and efficiently throughout the year.

I look forward to seeing everyone on August 28th as we continue to grow

the Kiltie family and make this yet another memorable year for the “Band Without Pants”!

~Mr. Olisar, who recently attended a DCI event in Pittsburgh and thinks the Kiltie Band has what it takes to compete at the next level... Dynamics, Cheers, and Ice-Cold-Beverages!

What to expect when you're expecting (a game day)

EMILY GETTY

Kiltie Band Librarian

Congratulations! You've made the big decision to have a game day. You might be thinking to yourself, “Wait, what's a game day? Also who are you and where am I? What did you do with my son?” Don't worry, it's completely normal to be overwhelmed. This article is here to provide you with wisdom and comfort in this scary time. As someone who has had about a dozen Game Days (who definitely doesn't keep track), I feel confident that I will be able to guide you through this new and exciting time in your life.

The first thing you should expect is early mornings. If you get lucky, you'll get a nice rehearsal time of 3:00 or 3:30 p.m., but most of

the time your Game Day will require you to be an early bird, with rehearsal starting at the ungodly time of 9:30 a.m. This may be upsetting to you, but your valiant early-birdness will be rewarded with Donald Duck Orange Juice, donuts, and occasionally hot chocolate. I know this time is still not ideal, but you signed up for a Game Day, so it is best to succumb to the schedule as soon as possible. This will make things easier for both you and the Game Day.

Once you have successfully arrived at Game Day, there will be a brief rehearsal to ensure that you are feeling properly prepared for the main event. You will march around and play through the music to ensure that your body is properly warmed up for later. You will also

be asked to repeat your affirmations with the help of Mr. Olisar, our life coach/announcer. After you're properly warmed up, you will get a whole ninety minutes of freedom before it's go-time.

Now, at this point, you might think, “Oh, okay! A break! That sounds perfect. I'll be able to relax before it's time to get serious.” And that, dear reader, is where you would be wrong. Don't be deceived by the allure of an entire hour-and-a-half of free time, as it goes quickly and there is much preparation to do. In those brief ninety minutes you must ensure that you are properly clothed and fueled for having a Game Day. These two steps are critical in the success of your Game Day. If this is your first Game Day, feel free to ask those

more experienced than you (such as myself) how to properly dress for the event. In return, if you feel so inclined, you should always feel welcome (obligated) to bestow upon us the sweet sweet meal blocks that you fresh people treat like mere tokens. If and only if these two tasks are completed, can you relax — but only until it's time to line up and wait for the Game Day to begin.

The specific details of the process of Game Day are best left a mystery, as the miracle of Game Day is beautiful yet impossible to explain.

When you have at last survived the Game Day, you will most likely be extremely exhausted. Once it is over, you will unwind in the hot, crowded band room as everyone strips off their Game Day gear, packs

up their equipment, and wanders out into the night (or, more likely, the late afternoon). Common post-Game Day activities include, but are not limited to: naps, spending time with other members of the band to decompress from the events of the day, or going back to your little hole to continue grinding away at the endless assignments the CMU curriculum provides. I hope that you have found some solace in this guide, and feel more prepared to successfully navigate your first Game Day. It's perfectly normal to be nervous, but I can assure you that the fact that you agreed to a Game Day in the first place means that you are more than capable of surviving them. Before you know it, you'll have dozens of Game Days under your belt just like me.

What you need to know about this season's hat trends

COLE SKUSE

Kiltie Band President

Imagine showing up to the first football game of the season only to find out that the hat you picked out is not in style. How embarrassing! Worry not, your gracious Kiltie Band president is here to tell you what's in style and what will have you doing 27 push-ups.

The Kiltie Band Hat™

What can I say, you've got great taste! There's a reason why the Kiltie Band has been using these hats for so long. But I will warn you, this makes you a very easy target for push-ups — there will be at least two others also sporting this gorgeous classic. Don't let this stop you from wearing it in public, it's free advertising for the band!

Food Hats

Who doesn't like wearing food on your head? The possibilities are endless as well! Just think of how many different food options are out there — and then make them a hat! It can be as real as you want it to be! Just watch out though; if someone gets hungry during a game, they might want to take a bite...

Derby Hats

Derby Hats are a personal favorite of mine, and there's no doubt that they are always in style. If you've ever seen Gillian's, you know I'm speaking the truth. Take some friends to Michael's in the Waterfront, get the biggest hat, and the most absurd decorations. You truly can't go wrong with one!

Hats Hats

Think of how cool you are just wearing one hat... Now think of how cool you would be wearing multiple hats! You can have multiple stacked on top of each other or connected to make one long trail — either way is definitely in this season. Just be careful you don't lose them all when you do the heel click!

... Nothing

Come on, you can do better than that! You get a free hat at the beginning of the year (or whenever you join) and plenty of Kilties have spares. If you have nothing covering that dome of yours, you bet you're going to have to do push-ups at some point, even if you are a trombone. Learn how to have fun!

An open letter to the Kilties

Dear Kilties,

As ~~the~~ ~~Cheer~~master an anonymous Kiltie, I am good at Yelling and Avoiding Pushups. Two things that aren't on that list? Playing trombone and doing drill. This past season, we (mostly) fearless Kilties tried out some drill that was a bit more challenging than we've experienced in previous seasons. I don't know whose idea this was, but I am begging them to stop. I was not fearless. I was highly fearful. I can hardly even play my instrument while standing still! I didn't march in high school! What on God's green Earth is a roll step? What is this 9 to 5

spacing or whatever the hell they call it?? I am genuinely struggling to walk even when I'm not playing my instrument, and struggling to play my instrument even when I'm not walking at the same time. I nearly cried when I had to turn twice in one song. I genuinely could either play the music or do the drill—my brain does NOT have the capacity for both. What do you mean you need me to form Shrek's face on the field??? I am wearing a wool kilt and on the brink of passing out, I'm in real danger if I move any more than strictly necessary! Please, Mr. Olisar, God, anybody! Have some mercy on me!

To all of you Kilties who did crazy drill and live, laugh, loved marching band in highschool: please keep your ideas to yourself. Some of us are out of shape, uncoordinated, and inexperienced. Once the Cheerleader regular old Kiltie starts being allowed to just stand motionless on the sidelines while y'all run around the field, you can get as crazy with the drill as you want. As long as I'm marching along, though, PLEASE keep it simple! I am not smart enough for this!

Waley Hilliams
(Identity hidden, as source wishes to remain anonymous)

Important Kiltie Links!



Student Information Form



Policies and Schedule



Kiltie Discord



Lyre/Flip Folder Order Form

Kiltie Band Officers
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Kiltie Times Online EXCLUSIVE: Learn the basics of marching band arranging from a pro!

JUSTIN PENG

*Kiltie Band Vice President
of Marching Band*

Everyone loves a good marching band arrangement, but buying a stock arrangement from a big publisher like Hal Leonard, Arranger's, or Alfred isn't always the best fit for the band. Especially with smaller bands missing parts of the instrumentation, the piece can sound completely different from what recordings promised. As a novice arranger with no formal composition or music writing education, I am clearly qualified to talk about arranging for the marching ensemble.

The first step is to determine the instrumentation of the band you are writing for. Before even thinking at numbers, look at the available instruments. The most common high school "competition" marching band will typically consist of the following:

High woodwinds:
Piccolo, Flute, B^b Clarinet, Eb Alto Sax

Low woodwinds:
B^b Tenor Sax, Eb Bari Sax, B^b Bass Clarinet

High brass:
B^b Trumpet, F Mellophone

Low brass:
Trombone, Baritone, Tuba

Battery percussion:
Snare Drum, Tenor Drums, Bass Drums, Cymbals

Pit percussion:
Mallet Percussion, Timpani, Drumset, Auxiliary Percussion

This instrumentation and usually the accompanying repertoire and show design find their roots in the sport of Drum Corps. Notably, compared to a concert band, you'll be missing double reeds and swapping french horns for mellophones. If you find yourself in this situation, you're fortunate to have the widest range of instruments at your disposal. A smaller instrumentation found in most large college bands and some high school bands (shoutout to Olentangy Orange Marching Pioneers) typically omit E^b bari sax, B^b bass clarinet, and most or all pit percussion from their ensembles. Because of the reduced instrumentation, these ensembles will typically have more players on each instrument which opens up more opportunities for arranging. Occasionally, you may also find a band with no woodwinds at all!

Typically these all-brass bands keep the same percussion, and might add some additional members of the brass family including cornets, flugelhorns, or bass trombones (TBDBITL). Marching band arrangements typically have 4 voices, each playing something different and consisting of multiple instruments. The highest soprano voice often plays the melody, and consists of flutes, clarinets, and trumpets. The middle

alto voice often plays the countermelody or provides extra harmony, played by alto saxes and mellophones. The lower tenor voice is often used to define the chord structure and fill out the lower end, using tenor saxes, trombones, and baritones. Finally, the lowest bass voice plays the bass line and helps the tenor section, employing tubas, bari saxes, and bass clarinets. These instrument/voice assignments can and often change from piece to piece, and within a piece too. Some common voicings can include tenor voices (trombones, baritones, tenor saxes) playing the melody of a verse section. A good marching band arrangement will throw the melody around different sections, to avoid potentially boring the audience with hearing the same instruments playing all the time.

When arranging, think of giving a different instrument section the melody! Especially if you find yourself writing for a particularly strong trombone section for example, don't hesitate to shine the spotlight on them.

Now let's talk about doubling. In the previous passage, we saw many instruments play the same voice, but oftentimes will play different parts

of the harmony within each voice. Especially in smaller bands with wide instrumentations, doubling is necessary to hear a certain part. When doubling exactly, pay attention to instruments' ranges and stay within the comfortable range.

This usually means clarinets double trumpets, alto saxes double mellophones, tenor saxes double trombones and baritones, and bari saxes double tubas. These are not hard, steadfast rules. You are free to double whichever instruments you feel are best suited to play together, just remember your players' abilities. You may also choose to double in octaves, in which case flute is usually found playing the same melody as trumpets but in a higher octave. Tenor saxes and trombones can also double countermelodies played by alto saxes and mellophones down an octave. When you really want a certain voice to project, pay attention to the number of players and consider doubling that part in another section.

It is important to play to each instrument's strengths. Flutes and clarinets are well suited for high ostinato passages with many notes, while trumpets may struggle with clarity playing those high and dense passages. However, outside of the very highest register, flutes and

clarinets are rarely audible unless there's nobody else playing. Another option to help with high and dense passages is utilizing the mallet percussion, which is very capable of fast runs in any register. The timbre of the alto sax and mellophone make them very well suited to play together alone, although they can also be found filling out the bottom part of harmonies alongside 3rd trumpets and the like. Trombones blend exceptionally well with each other, so large chords within the trombones work very well for large impact. Tenor sax players are usually excited to play loud, and their low B^b projects immensely well. Each instrument is incredibly complex, and only after playing them yourself or getting really close to a player who knows the instrument well can you fully utilize all the strengths and avoid the weaknesses.

There is still much more to be said about good arranging practices and other tips and tricks to get the most of the ensemble you are writing for, but hopefully this article provided some valuable insight to get you started on marching band arranging, or taught you something new for seasoned arrangers! If you have any questions or want to learn more, feel free to reach out to me whenever.