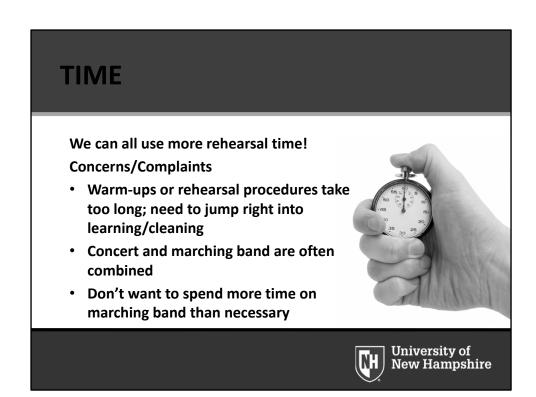


Nothing here is an original idea. Marching band directors love to share. The CBDNA Athletic Bands Symposium is my favorite annual clinic and I never miss it. We all freely share ideas and materials because no one wants to hear or see a bad band!



Links to materials, presentation, and external resources



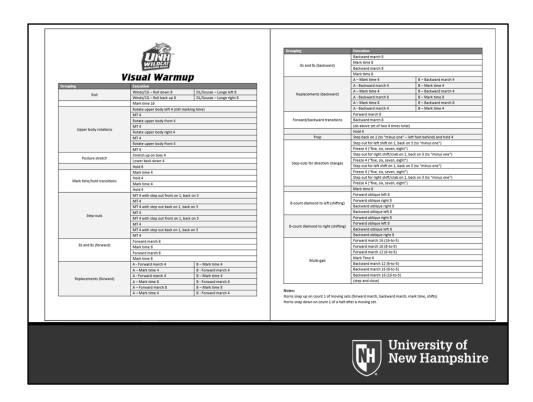
Some directors skip the warmup altogether or complain that it takes too long. There is always a long list of items we need to work on but spending time on fundamentals will save time in the long run.

VISUAL WARM-UP

- Starts off each outdoor rehearsal
- Streamlined way to practice basics
- Assigned block allows for easy attendance
- Practical skill: memorized drill vs. responding to commands
- Can work in techniques that don't have practical commands



We teach it in chunks in the fall. Students get a printout (half-sheet size) to refer to. Attendance2 is the app we use for attendance. Manual Sort Order puts them in order by ranks in block for quick attendance. Other apps may allow a seating chart to put students in the block, which is even better. You're just looking for holes.



PDF and Word document are on the website.



Video of an early season Visual Warm-Up (not perfect!)

Benefits and Drawbacks

Benefits

- Ensures all techniques are covered
- Practical application of memorization skill
- Can work in techniques that don't have a practical "command" in block
- Makes taking attendance easy
- More fun to march to music

Drawbacks

- Takes a while to learn the first time
- Difficult to start in the middle if needed
- Can get stale, but can do different things, focus on specific techniques instead of this when needed



Created track in Garage Band and exported at various tempos. I think changes in the music at each section helps with memorization (and to keep it interesting), but makes it difficult to start in the middle. If you want to, you can chop up your files into smaller chunks as well and add 8 clicks beforehand in Garage Band. You can create separate files for the chunks or insert the 8 clicks between segments in one file and then chop up in Audacity or other audio editing program.

Make your own!

- Make a list of the techniques you want to include
- Put in order and indicate # of counts for each (essentially building the handout)
- Have fun with Garage Band or similar application putting together something that fits the counts.
- Can also use existing music with the memorized routine OR write routine to fit structure of existing music



Also possible to add voiceover if you want. May take a few attempts, though!

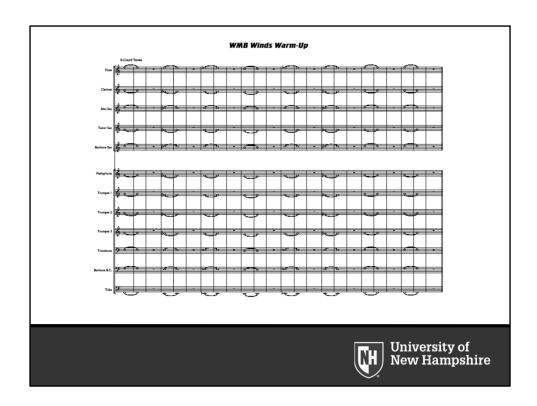
MUSIC WARM-UP

- Many resources available here
- Use published warm-ups or use your own (or mine!)
- Set warm-up routine means you know how long it will take
- Ways to incorporate drumline and even guard



Nothing earth-shattering here. Sibelius file and PDFs of score and parts available for download. I'm an unashamed Carolina Crown fangirl and take inspiration from their approach. "Inside the Circle" is a comprehensive program. Great but overwhelming. Condensing favorite exercises down to one set warmup saves time. DRAWBACK: can get stale, but there's nothing saying you can't teach them additional exercises on the fly to mix it up every once in a while.

Write or copy over drumline exercises to fit each winds exercise and/or even include guard in warm-up (e.g. ballet positions for long tones, drop spins for articulated 8ths, etc.)



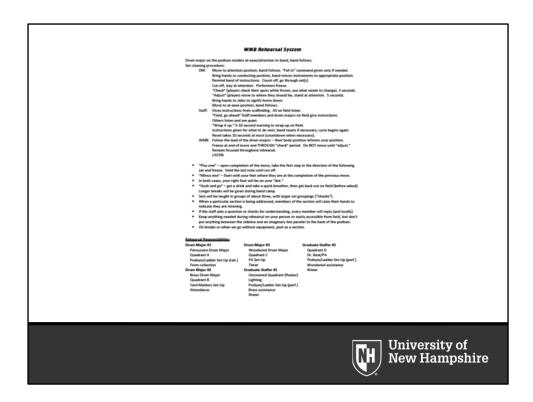
Link to PDF of score. Score and parts available on website, plus Sibelius file.

REHEARSAL SYSTEM

- Good for teaching and cleaning drill
- Takes some persistence at first but once one group learns it they will set the example
- Minimize extraneous talking, overuse of commands



Inspired by systems used by many marching arts organizations.



Link to PDF. PDF and Word file are on the website.

GENERAL TIPS

- These will take time to implement. Be patient and persistent!
- Cheap dot markers: pizza box stackers (aka "Barbie tables")
- Performance efficiency
 - Use silent count-offs

Maintains the excitement and energy level.

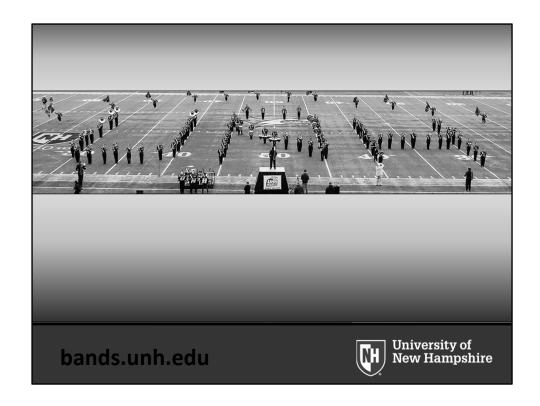
- Streamline drum major changes



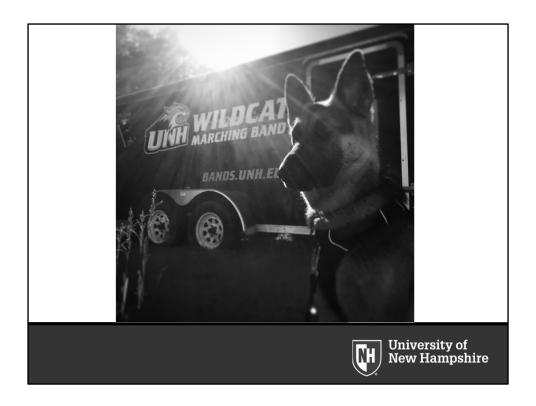


Pizza stackers: Box of 1000 for 510 + shipping. We spray painted different colors and had students label each with their dot number. Can also have students decorate their own. Break off one leg to make it easier but they can stick into ground or artificial turf.

Noticed a lot of downtime in shows. Silent count-offs – rather than calling band to attention, mark time, and then an aural count-off (which causes phasing issues) simply have them watch the DM for a visual "one, two, one-two-three-four." Build the horns up into the count-off as well. A few missed count-offs in rehearsal is all it takes to get them used to watching. "Fall in" or similar command also helps. If you have a drum major change between tunes, have the next one move to the center before the previous tune is over so they can change quickly during applause and, hopefully, start the silent count-off before the applause finishes dying down.



Thank you!



My dog Willa is cute.