



Welcome to the Greater Victoria Concert Band (GVCB) Senior Band

Mission Statement: The purpose of the Senior Band, as the flagship performing ensemble of the Greater Victoria Concert Band, is to provide a high degree of musical challenge for its members in a social atmosphere. Members wishing to participate in the Senior Band will be expected to perform at a Grade 4-6 level of music and to maintain this level in order to hold their position in the ensemble.

Musical Qualifications for Membership

Members of every level are expected to attend and practise regularly. The four levels are as follows:

Novice: No experience is necessary, but members should be out of school.

Junior: At least one year of playing experience; goal is to eventually develop skills that might lead to membership in the Intermediate level. Music played is Band Grades 1 to 2; members will encounter all scales, syncopation and variety of rhythms.

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Intermediate: Music played is Band Grades 2 to 4; members typically will have 3 or more years of playing experience or demonstrate appropriate playing technique determined by the conductor.

Senior: Music played is Grades 3 and up. All applicants should be prepared to demonstrate appropriate musical competence for section leaders and/or conductor. Members will likely have 5 years of playing experience and/or a minimum competency level determined by the conductor. A person with insufficient playing experience and/or ability to become a member of the senior level may become a member of the novice, junior or intermediate level .

Application Process

Musicians interested in membership in the GVCB will be invited to attend rehearsals at one of the four levels within the organization in September, the beginning of the fiscal year. Sections will be filled by the fourth rehearsal and membership dues are payable by the first week in October.

Initial applications for membership in the band must be presented in writing, on a registration form provided by the band, to the treasurer. As per the constitution and bylaws, application does not guarantee membership.

Membership within each level of the band will be determined by the level's conductor, in consultation with the executive, taking into account the balance within the level and the capabilities of its players. Players may move from one level to another with the approval of the relevant conductors. The conductor may consult with the appropriate section leaders.

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When is a Chair Available in Senior Band?

In as much as the senior band is the flagship band of the organization, there are ideal section sizes to ensure proper balance in the band. These are: 6 flutes, 2 oboes, 10 clarinets, 2 bass clarinets, 2 bassoons, 2 alto saxophones, 1 tenor saxophone, 1 baritone saxophone, 6 trumpets,

4-6 horns, 4 trombones, 2 euphoniums, 2 tubas, 5 percussion.

All chairs are available in September during the application process. Senior band members from the previous year applying to return to the band will be given first priority, regardless of the ideal section size limit or other considerations. When some chairs cannot be filled with returning players, it may be necessary to advertise for additional candidates to fill them. Members of the Intermediate Band and those on the Wait and Substitution List will be notified of the opening before advertising. New applications may be accepted mid-year in consultation with band conductors, section leaders and executive members.

Prospective members who are unable to join the band because of section size limits may request to be placed on a Wait and Substitution List which will be updated annually.

Players' Responsibilities

Arrive in sufficient time to commence at the downbeat.

Come to rehearsal with music well prepared.

Be responsible for your music folder; mark music only in pencil.

Treat others with respect – please, no distractions during rehearsals.

Players, together with their section leader, will make an effort to find a substitute if they are unable to attend a band concert.

The uniform is all black concert dress.

Absences

If you will be absent, please advise your section leader.

For extended leaves of absence, a substitute may have to be found to maintain balance in the band. An absence from a dress rehearsal means you will not be allowed to perform at the concert, but the Director has the authority to make exceptions in special circumstances.



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