

3/2017

UFES Pipes and Drums members,

First of all, I want to thank all of you for all of your hard work and dedication for as long as you have been with us! Whether you have been at this with me from the very beginning or are just starting out, I appreciate all you have put into our band to make it what it is today. Because of all of you, our band has grown from literally nothing, to a very impressive and respectable fire department pipe band in a matter of only a few years. We have been able to make a huge impact in the lives of many throughout our department, the state, and now the country.

Because of our rapid growth in membership, notoriety, and skill, it has become clear to me that now is the time we really need to take our band to the next level. What does that mean? Having traveled to both Emmitsburg and most recently Colorado Springs, it is obvious to me that we can and should be right there alongside the other top fire department pipe bands in this country. Our Emerald Society's membership is large enough that there is no reason why we shouldn't be. With that being said, in order to attain that level we are going to need to make some changes.

I fully admit that I personally, especially as your Pipe Major, have not set a real performance standard and have not fully established firm expectations for us as a band and for you as individual performers. I have been playing the balancing act since the beginning of trying to be easy going enough to not drive people away yet still strict enough to progress and sound decent. We are now at a point where we no longer need to beg people to join the band and/or muddy the expectations and standards we set for ourselves and each other.

It is now time we each fully recommit to ourselves and to the band to become not just good, but great!—both personally with our own instruments and together as one of the biggest and best fire department pipe bands in the intermountain west.

In order to do this I am going to implement a few new SOP's (standard operating procedures). Hopefully these will help all members both old and new to more fully understand how we work and what to expect.

One of the major issues we now face is that we have a huge gap in ability levels between our newest and most experienced performers. Our repertoire is daunting for some and boring for others. Most competition bands deal with this issue by dividing performers into smaller bands labeled as "grades". Because we aren't a competition band we have decided to do things a little different and will subdivide into two smaller performing groups which will be known as the "A" and "B" bands both falling under the umbrella of the UFES Pipes and Drums. The A band being the more advanced group having much stricter standards and expectations.

In order to help our newest members and those performing in the B band to progress as much as we can we are going to institute additional practices on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday's of the month. These will be in addition to the regular band rehearsals which will continue to be on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday's of the month. These 2nd and 4th Tuesday practices will be focused specifically towards our less experienced members providing them additional opportunities to get some personal attention and to

play their instruments in a group setting. We will make every effort to have advanced players and/or instructors present at these additional practices but it is not guaranteed. Due to the input from several of our newer members the biggest goal is to provide you the opportunity to perform alongside others, not alone, since that is one of the more challenging hurdles.

Some gigs will be performed by the A band, some by the B band, and a large majority will be performed by everyone. There will be specific standards and expectations set for each band and for the UFES Pipes and Drums as a whole.

What is most important from here on out is that you are honest with yourself and each other. We must hold each other to our standards listed in the SOP's and be willing to accept the results of our efforts or lack thereof. We (band leadership) will do what we can to help you progress but are not responsible for your abilities and success as a performer. We will not hold your hand through the process. If you want to be and remain a musician the vast majority of the initiative must come from you. There are many resources at your disposal but if you do not take advantage of them and/or practice, that's on you.

Please read through the attached SOP's so you are aware of the expectations and standards every person will be held to.

Thanks for your efforts,

Chet Ellis
Pipe Major
UFES Pipes and Drums

UFES Pipes and Drums SOP's

Revised 3/2017

1. The Pipe Major is responsible for the performing aspects of the band as a whole. This includes the various decisions which arise in regards to who performs, where the band performs, what they perform, and how. They also decide the setlist for gigs, the appropriate uniform, and which band and/or members are needed. The Pipe Major works closely with the UFES Executive Board to ensure the continued success of the band.
2. The Pipe Sergeant assumes the Pipe Major's responsibilities in their absence. They also take a lead role in tuning the band at rehearsals and performances.
3. The Drum Major is responsible for the overall look and sound of the band during performances. They lead the marches, call off the tempo and cuts for them. They ensure the band and it's individual members are playing the proper tunes and are in proper formation. If not they make sure the proper adjustments take place.
4. The Drum Sergeant is responsible for the proper and professional function of the drum corps. This person is also responsible for the recruitment, growth, and development of the corps and should insure all members are given every opportunity to excel. All drum corps information, needs, etc. should funnel through the Drum Sergeant.
5. A and B band practices are the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month and will begin promptly at 19:15 (warm up/ tune up/maintenance at 19:00). The goal is to practice our more challenging individual band tunes while we are fresh, then our full band tunes all together at around 20:00. Locations will vary slightly depending on the needs of the majority. Check the UFES website calendar for specific locations. Beginning chanter and drum practice will begin at 20:30 at the same location.

Practice schedule (1st and 3rd Tuesday's):

- 19:00 - Warm up/tune up/maintenance
- 19:15 - A band rehearsal, practice individual band tunes
- 19:15 - B band rehearsal, practice individual band tunes
- 20:00 - Full group rehearsal
- 20:30 - Beginners on chanters, beginning drums

Practice schedule (2nd and 4th Tuesday's)

- 20:00 - Practice catered to who is present and what the needs are

6. All mass band communication will be done via email. It is up to you to check your emails and to read the details inside of them. If you miss important information/dates/times we will carry on without you. All band events/gigs with corresponding info should be listed on the UFES website calendar.

7. In order to perform with the band at one of our many gigs, you must be able to play the respective tunes by yourself. If you don't know the tunes when playing alone, you still don't know the tunes when playing with the group. You will be invited to not play. It is up to the Pipe Major/Sergeant and Drum Major/Sergeant to determine who is or is not ready to participate. If you take a leave of absence for whatever reason, the same expectations exist for you to be able to perform with the band upon your return. You still must be proficient to perform.

8. Travel — You must prove you can play the travel set list of tunes up to a certain ability level before you will be approved for the trip. It will be the responsibility of the Pipe Major and Drum Sergeant to insure their members have the set list, sheet music, and time necessary to learn the tunes. It will also be the responsibility of the Pipe Major and Drum Sergeant to ensure members can play at that acceptable level before they are approved.

9. Committees — Each committee will have a chair person and specific responsibilities. All information, tasks, assignments, etc. should be coordinated through the committee chair person, then through the Pipe Major to the Executive Board. The Executive Board will then approve all major decisions. New decisions, implementations, information, and purchases must go through the Pipe Major to the Executive Board to ensure fairness, consistency, and proper accountability.

10. Kids — We realize there may be an occasion when you must bring kids with you to make attending possible. This is allowed as long as your kids are well behaved, respectful of the station and it's on-duty crew, have something quiet to do, and do not interfere at all with our practices.

11. Eligible Members — Any member of the Emerald Society (service member or civilian) is welcome to maintain their full membership in the band and it's perks as long as they are willing and able.

12. Uniform and Drum Purchases — Before uniform items are purchased for a new member, that member must prove they can play the basic set of music with very few to no mistakes. The list of basic required tunes and expectations are listed in the "B band expectations" section. When you have proven you are dedicated to the band (attend appx. 75% of practices), can play your instrument at an acceptable level (as approved by the Pipe Major/Drum Sergeant), and willingly fulfill responsibilities as needed, the UFES will purchase for you the following items:

- Glengarry cap
- Tie
- Flashes
- Grey golf shirt
- Shoulder patches
- Cap badge

- Bagpipe chanter reeds

What you must purchase for yourself:

- Kilt
- Dress shirt
- Hose
- Belt/Buckle
- Sporrان
- Vest
- Sweater
- Sporrان
- Shoes
- T-shirts

- Practice chanter and practice chanter reeds
- Practice pad

- Drum sticks/mallets
- Drum
- Drum harness
- Drum case

- Bagpipes
- Bagpipe case
- Bagpipe cover
- Bagpipe cords
- Bagpipe drone reeds

13. Equipment - Everything purchased for you by the UFES is property of the UFES. Everything purchased by you belongs to you. You are welcome to keep all UFES purchased items until you are no longer a member. If you officially quit, don't meet the basic band standards, are found to be a negative influence on the success of the band and/or are guilty of committing serious douchebaggery, you will be given official notice and will have 2 weeks to return your UFES purchased items.

14. Instruction - It is highly recommended that you pursue private lessons in addition to attending our group lessons. It will be much more difficult and will take a lot more time if you rely solely on our group lessons to get the attention required to progress. The bagpipe and drum instructors who attend our group practices also teach private lessons. If they are full they can refer you to someone else for 1 on 1 coaching. Their contact info is:

Bagpipes - Megan McDonald, megmcmegan@hotmail.com, (801)856-2332

Snare Drum - Mike Postma, mike.postma@gmail.com, (801)856-3728

Tenor/Snare/Bass Drum - BJ Gunn, drumminggunn@msn.com, (801)979-3323

Current Assignments

Pipe Major - Chet Ellis

Drum Major - Odie Brendel

Pipe Sergeant - Megan McDonald-Smith

Drum Sergeant - Sam Christensen

B Band Standards and Expectations

In order to become and remain an official member of the UFES Pipes and Drums, to receive uniform items, and to be eligible for travel benefits the standards and expectations listed below must be met initially and continually:

- Attend at least 75% of our 1st and 3rd Tuesday practices you are not on duty. Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis dependent upon the personal needs of the member. This does not eliminate the requirement to be proficient in the tunes if the member expects to perform with the group upon their return.
- Pipers must perform at least 1 solo gig (memorial or service member funeral) per calendar year. If you are a UFES Piper you also commit to be able and willing to perform solo gigs as well, it's part of the deal and comes with the calling.
- Initially pass off then maintain proficiency with the following tune list. You must be able to play these tunes by yourself with few mistakes. No "air-piping" or faking your way through the tunes will be tolerated during performances. If you do not know the tune, stand at attention. Tune proficiency will be observed at practices and prior to performances:

Tunes grouped together are played as sets. Numbers in parentheses indicates the order in which they should be learned.

- Pipers:**
- (1) Amazing Grace (normal and Saints and Sinners versions)
 - (2) Highland Cathedral
 - (3) 4/4 - Scotland the Brave - Rowan Tree - Wings
 - (4) Going Home

To be eligible for the travel reimbursement lottery for the CO Memorial you must also know their required marches. This is additionally:

- (6) 2/4 - The High Road to Gairloch - Teribus
- The Barren Rocks of Aden

Drummers: (1) Amazing Grace (normal and Saints and Sinners versions)

(2) Highland Cathedral

(3) Going Home

(4) 4/4 mass band set

(5) 2/4 mass band set

(6) 3/4 mass band set

If you cannot maintain your proficiency due to injury, illness, personal struggles, or problems with your instrument outside of your control we will make reasonable exceptions. We understand everyone faces hardships and we are more than welcome to work with you as long as you maintain communication and let us know why it is that you cannot attend. **If it is because of your lack of effort** you will be given a 2 month grace period **where we will make every effort to offer assistance.** If after 2 months you are still unwilling to put in sufficient effort, actions will be taken up to and including termination of your membership in the band. This must be determined by at least 3 members of band leadership (Major's and Sergeant's). This does not include termination from the Emerald Society in general, just your membership in the band.

A Band Standards and Expectations

When you can successfully play by yourself the B band and A band required tunes, you may perform and practice with the A band. The standards and expectations for members wanting to perform with the A band are significantly more challenging. The A band is for those who are fully committed and willing to put in extra effort to maintain a more advanced level of performance. The A band will learn more advanced tunes, will be expected to learn those tunes quicker, and members must be willing and able to solo and lead the group during practice and at various performances. Being in the A band is not required. If you choose not to or cannot meet the expectations, you will be invited to perform with the B band.

The following standards and expectations must be met initially and continually:

- Attend at least 75% of our 1st and 3rd Tuesday practices you are not on duty. Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis dependent upon the personal needs of the member. This does not eliminate the requirement to be proficient in the tunes if the member expects to perform with the group upon their return.
- Pipers must perform at least 1 solo gig (memorial or service member funeral) per calendar year. If you are a UFES Piper you also commit to be able and willing to perform solo gigs as well, it's part of the deal and comes with the calling.
- Initially pass off then maintain proficiency with the following tune list. You must be able to play these tunes by yourself with few mistakes. No "air-piping" or faking your way through tunes:

Tunes grouped together are played as sets.

All of the B band tunes plus:

- Pipers:**
- (1) The Saints and Sinners Irish set:
4/4 - Minstrel Boy - Wearing of the Green
 - (2) 4/4 - America the Beautiful - Marines Hymn
 - (3) 3/4 - The Green Hills - Battles O'er - Balmoral

- Drummers:**
- (1) 6/8 Mass band
 - (2) Drum Salute

Performance Tunes (only those who prove they can play them will be asked to perform them):

- (1) The Gael
- (2) Cap Caval - Jigs (Flee the Glen - Rockin' the Baby)
- (3) 6/8 - Bonnie Dundee, A Hundred Pipers, Atholl Highlanders

Emmitsburg Travel

To be eligible to travel to the Emmitsburg Memorial on the UFES' dime you must also know the bare minimum list of required tunes. You must play these tunes for band leadership before you will be considered to go. This is additionally:

- 4/4 Let Erin Remember (played before Minstrel Boy, Wearing of the Green)
- 4/4 Dawning of the Day (played after Wings)
- 4/4 God Bless America (played after America the Beautiful)
- Morag of Dunvegan

For an added bonus (but not required), you are strongly encouraged to learn:

- 4/4 20 Men from Dublin town - Sean South of Garryowen
- 4/4 Bonnie Charlie - Johnny Scobie (No Awa)
- 4/4 42nd - Blue Bells of Scotland
- Drummers Lost
- Shenandoah