



CLASS GOT BRASS? A SCHOOL BRASS BAND COMPETITION

GUIDELINES

Application Deadline: Friday, Feb. 16, 2018

Competition Date: Sunday, March 4, 2018

Class Got Brass is a program of the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation to support music education in the Louisiana school system by promoting the New Orleans brass band tradition.

It is a competition open to public and private middle schools and high schools in Louisiana. Schools may enter brass bands of no more than 12 members and must adhere to guidelines that emphasize the brass band tradition.

The deadline to apply is Friday, Feb. 16, 2018.

Depending on the number of entries, there may be a preliminary competition to select 10 finalists. The final competition will take place on Sunday, March 4, in Armstrong Park as part of our [Congo Square New World Rhythms Festival](#).

The winners will earn gift certificates for their school music programs. These may be redeemed for instruments, instrument repair or other equipment and supplies.

There are two categories for the competition – advanced and beginner. For the advanced category, the first prize is \$10,000; second prize is \$7,000; third prize: \$5,000. For the beginner category, the prizes are: \$5,000 (first), \$4,000 (second), \$3,000 (third).

Application Guidelines are available from the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation, by calling (504) 558-6108, and online at www.classgotbrass.com.

To enter the contest, please use [this online application form](#).

The deadline to apply is Friday, Feb. 16, 2018.

1. Eligibility – Who May Apply to Compete?

- a. Public and non-public accredited middle schools (grades six through eight) and high schools (grades nine through 12) in the state of Louisiana are eligible to participate.
 - b. In order to participate in the competition, schools must submit a completed application signed by the band director and school principal.
 - c. Travel: The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation does not provide travel or lodging expenses, or reimbursement for any expenses associated with participation in this competition.
2. **Band Size:** Band may have no fewer than five instruments and no more than 12.
 3. **Beginner or Advanced?** Bands may compete as either “advanced” or “beginner.”
 4. **Instrumentation:** Bands may consist of the following:
 - a. Bass Drum – 1 only
 - b. Snare Drum – 1 only
 - c. Sousaphone (tuba) – 1 only

- d. Saxophone(s)
 - e. Trumpet(s)
 - f. Trombone(s)
 - g. Clarinet(s)
 - h. Other (must be recognized as a traditional brass band instrument; e.g.: banjo)
- 5. Extra Credit:**
- a. Bands may be accompanied by groups of dancers, or “steppers,” numbering no more than six
- 6. Dress Code:**
- a. *No* school or school band uniforms
 - b. Blue, black or khaki pants (jeans are acceptable)
 - c. White shirt
 - d. Hat optional
 - e. Black neck tie optional
- 7. Repertoire (Song Selection):**
- a. Bands must begin their performance with a traditional dirge.
 - b. Bands must perform at least three songs from the Song List For Required Repertoire provided in a separate document.
 - c. Band directors may request to have other songs added to the approved repertoire.
- 8. Required Elements:**
- a. Bands must perform:
 - i. One dirge
 - ii. One traditional up-tempo song
 - iii. One contemporary song
- 9. Competition Date & Place**
- a. Depending on the number of entries, an elimination round may be scheduled in order to select 10 finalists.
 - b. The final competition will take the form of a second-line parade in Congo Square, in Armstrong Park, New Orleans, LA, at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 19, 2017.
- 10. Performance Length:**
- a. Bands should be prepared to perform for 15 minutes.
 - b. Bands competing in the finals will have no more than 10 minutes in front of the judges’ reviewing stand.
- 11. Judging Criteria:**
- 1. Judges will rank competing bands according to criteria that will include:
 - a. Adherence to tradition
 - b. Originality
 - c. Group cohesion
 - d. Improvisation, especially collective improvisation
 - e. Energy
 - f. Technical merit
 - g. Artistic merit
 - h. Entertainment value
 - i. Adherence to guidelines
 - i. Repertoire

- ii. Uniform
- iii. Presentation
- j. Extra Credit
 - i. Dancing Group (“Steppers”)
 - ii. Other
- 2. Beginner or Advanced? Bands may compete as either “advanced” or “beginner.”

12. Application:

- a. Applicants must complete the required application form in its entirety. It must be signed by the school’s band director as well as the principal.

Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 16, 2018.

To enter, please use in the online application form here:

<https://jazzandheritagefoundation.wufoo.com/forms/2018-class-got-brass-entry-form/>

Questions? Please contact the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival and Foundation, Inc., by calling (504) 558-6108, or by sending e-mail to: programs@jazzandheritage.org.