CLASS GOT BRASS? A SCHOOL BRASS BAND COMPETITION

GUIDELINES

Application Deadline: Friday, March 13, 2020
Competition Date: Sunday, March 22, 2020

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, March 13, 2020.

The competition will take place on Sunday, March 22, in front of Backstreet Cultural Museum (1116 Henriette Delille Street, NOLA 70116) in Treme. In years past, the competition was held in Armstrong Park as part of our Congo Square New World Rhythms Festival.

This year, we are featuring Class Got Brass in a stand alone event on Sunday, March 22. Local high school gospel groups will also be invited to perform in St. Augustine Catholic Church (1210 Governor Nichols Street, NOLA 70116).

All competing groups will receive prizes redeemable 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).

Performing schools that do not place in either category will earn a stipend of up to $1,000.

Application Guidelines are available from the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation, by calling (504) 558-6103, and online at www.classgotbrass.com.

To enter the contest, please use this online application form.

The deadline to apply is Friday, March 13, 2020.

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, and/or a grand marshal.

6. **Students Only:**
   a. All performers – whether band members or accompanying dancers or grand marshal – must be students currently enrolled in the school.
   b. Band directors may accompany the group during the performance but not perform with them.

7. **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
   f. The Grand Marshal may wear a black suit and/or sash
   g. Dancers’ outfits must match those of the band

8. **No Props:**
   a. Bands may not bring any props (for example: a mock coffin) into the performing area. Banners or flags are not allowed.
   b. The only exceptions are:
      i. The Grand Marshal may carry a baton or umbrella
      ii. Dancers may carry umbrellas and/or handkerchiefs

9. **Required Elements - Repertoire (Song Selection):**
   a. Bands must perform two songs from the Approved Song List.
      i. Bands must start their performance with a dirge from the Approved Song List.
      ii. The second selection must be an up-tempo song (traditional or contemporary) from the Approved Song List.

10. **Check-In, Competition Date & Place**
    a. Check-in will take place on Sunday, March 22 at the St. Augustine Catholic Church parking lot located in the 1100 block of Treme Street at 11:30 a.m. **All bands must be checked in by and no later than 12:30 p.m.** Competition will begin promptly at 1:30 p.m.
b. Students should be dropped off at St. Augustine Catholic Church’s parking lot (1100 block of Treme Street). (Limited parking is available at the George and Joyce Wein Jazz & Heritage Center - 1225 N. Rampart Street, New Orleans, La 70116).

c. The competition will begin promptly at 1:30 p.m. Bands will line up in St. Augustine Catholic Church’s parking lot and parade to a stage located in front of Backstreet Cultural Museum (1116 Henriette Delille Street, NOLA 70116). Judges will be seated directly in front of the stage. Beginners will go first in alphabetical order followed by advanced bands in alpha order.

11. Performance Length:
   a. Bands will perform two songs. Band must begin their performance with a dirge. The second selection must be an up-tempo song (traditional or contemporary) from the one traditional or contemporary song from this Approved Song List.
   b. The performance must be no more than four (4) minutes long.

12. 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. Grand Marshal

13. 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, March 13, 2020.

To enter, please use in the online application form here: https://jazzandheritagefoundation.wufoo.com/forms/2020-class-got-brass-entry-form-mzc9hwx1bs4286/

Questions? Please contact the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival and Foundation, Inc., by calling (504) 558-6103, or by sending e-mail to: programs@jazzandheritage.org.