

1. Eligibility – Who May Apply to Compete?

- a. Public and non-public accredited middle schools (grades 6-8) and high schools (grades 9-12) 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/or 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.
- d. All students will be asked to show their school I.D. at the time of competition check-in.
(if the student does not have a school I.D., we'll ask for another form of I.D.) .

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 5-point deduction will be applied to the band’s total score for EACH violation in this guideline.**

- 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 Currently Enrolled at the Participating School: **Not following this guideline will result in disqualification.**

- 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.

Dress Code: **A 5-point deduction will be applied to the band’s total score for EACH violation in this guideline**

7. The following guidelines apply to attire for all performers:

- 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

No Props: A 5-point deduction will be applied to the band's total score for EACH violation in this guideline

8. The following restrictions apply regarding what can and cannot be included in the performance:
 - 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:
 - a. The Grand Marshal may carry a baton or umbrella
 - b. Dancers may carry umbrellas and/or handkerchiefs
9. **Required Elements - Repertoire (Song Selection): A 5-point deduction will be applied to the band's total score for EACH violation in this guideline**
 - a. Bands must start their performance with a dirge.
 - b. The second selection must be an up-tempo song (traditional or contemporary).
 - c. Performances are to be four (4) minutes in from the start of the dirge to the completion of the up-tempo song. *(This is subject to changed based on the final number of participants we have).*
10. **Required Elements - Repertoire (Song Selection): A 5-point deduction will be applied to the band's total score for EACH violation in this guideline**
 - a. Bands must start their performance with a dirge.
 - b. The second selection must be an up-tempo song (traditional or contemporary).
11. Performances are to be four (4) minutes in from the start of the dirge to the completion of the up-tempo song. *(This is subject to changed based on the final number of participants we have).*
12. **Competition Date & Place**
 - a. **The competition will take place on Saturday, March 29, at Louis Armstrong Park (701 N. Rampart Street) during the 2025 Congo Square Rhythms Festival.**
 - b. Check in begins at 11:00 a.m. and ends at 1:00 p.m.
 - c. Competition starts at 2:00 p.m.
13. **Performance Length:**
 - a. Bands will be allotted **no more than four minutes** for their entire performance.
14. **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

15. Application:

- a. Applications are available online at www.classgotbrass.org and must be completed prior to competing.

Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, January 6, 2025.

By registering for and participating in the competition, participants consent to being filmed and photographed. These images and videos may be used to promote future Class Got Brass events.

The judges' decisions reflect their professional opinions and are final.

Questions? Please contact the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival and Foundation, Inc., by calling (504) 558-6100, or by sending e-mail to: kia@jazzandheritage.org .