



# THE PACK DRUMLINE

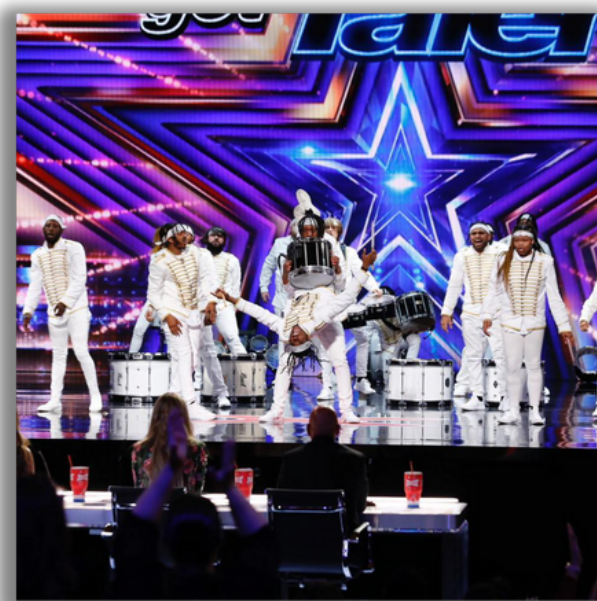
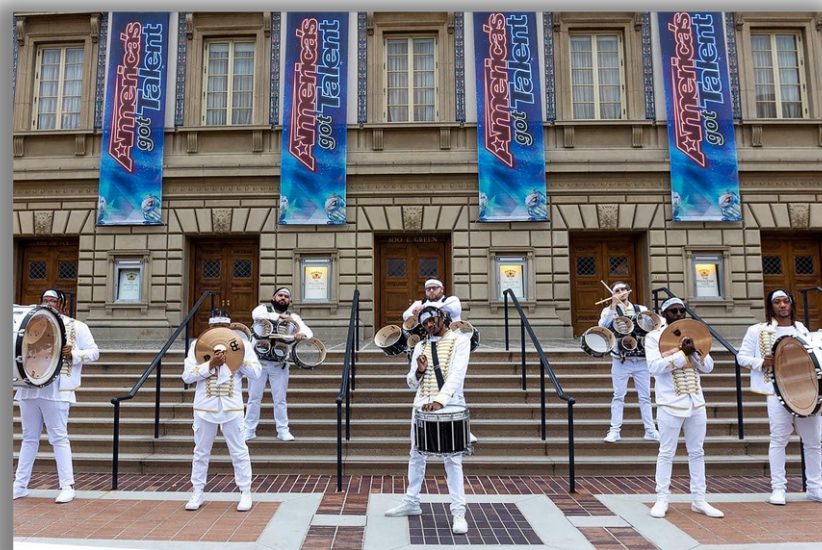
## STUDENT FIELD TRIP STUDY GUIDE

In this resource guide, you'll discover a wealth of valuable information geared towards fostering confidence and educational enrichment among the youth. This guide is designed to elevate the scholastic impact of drumming performances, bridging the gap between academic goals and the vibrant world of rhythmic expression.

This Resource Guide is aims to:

- Amplify the scholastic influence of drumming performances by offering discussion ideas, engaging activities that seamlessly integrate with diverse academic subjects.
- Cultivate arts literacy by expanding students' knowledge not only in music but also in science, storytelling, and theatre, creating a holistic understanding of the cultural and interdisciplinary aspects of percussion.
- Illuminate the arts as a legacy, reflecting values, customs, beliefs, and the rich expressions of diverse cultures, promoting cultural awareness and appreciation.
- Utilize the art of drumming to instill confidence and convey educational concepts in an engaging and interactive manner, ensuring that students not only learn but also embrace the joy of learning.
- Enhance students' enjoyment and appreciation of the arts by providing activities that encourage active participation, fostering a connection between academic learning and the dynamic world of percussion."

Through this guide, we aspire to drum up a passion for learning, instill confidence, and create an educational experience that resonates with the youth.



### Table of Contents

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| About B.E.A.T             | 2-3 |
| Origin of Drumline        | 4   |
| Origin of Bucket Drumming | 5   |
| Instruments in a Drumline | 6   |
| Activity                  | 7-8 |



## About 'B.E.A.T'

B.E.A.T' is a dynamic concert experience inspired by the rich traditions of Historically Black College and University (HBCU) marching bands. Conceived by visionary, Perry Donta'e, this production brings the infectious energy and captivating rhythms of marching band culture to the theatrical stage. With a blend of "riveting rhythms, bold beats, and ear-grabbing energy," our stage show is a synchronized musical extravaganza.

With a unique incorporation of bucket drumming purposefully integrated into this dynamic showcase. Our innovative approach to percussion transforms everyday objects into instruments, adding an urban flair and creativity that mirrors the grassroots origins of drumline culture. From the rhythmic thump of the bass drums to the lively beats of the bucket drums, our diverse percussion ensemble brings a fresh and energetic twist to the stage in B.E.A.T and the audience will definitely feel it!

B.E.A.T is a rhythmic journey, seamlessly weaving together original compositions and soul-infused renditions of top 40 hits. Experience hand-clapping, the grandeur of big band sounds, and soulful reinterpretations of contemporary hits, all seamlessly choreographed into a performance that transcends mere entertainment.

In our concerts, expect more than just colorful, choreographed routines; brace yourself for friendly yet intense drum battles that echo the iconic halftime extravaganzas of HBCU marching bands. THE PACK DRUMLINE invites you to join us for an experience like none other. Highlighting creativity and boundless energy. This is more than a concert; it's a rhythmic odyssey that will leave you exhilarated and tapping your feet long after the final beat.

# The 'B.E.A.T'

Bold, Thrilling, Inspirational, Unparalleled ... These are all ways in which students have described The Pack Drumline's 'B.E.A.T' show.

This fun and exciting program is geared towards all students and will hold a special place in the hearts of students who have a passion for the arts. Let the excitement out!

The Pack Drumline "B.E.A.T" show is all about Being Encouraged About Tomorrow.

The B.E.A.T show is designed to explain and show students that if you work hard and do not quit, you can make a lifelong career out of what you love to do. We are living testaments to what hard work, despite all odds, can produce. We instill encouragement into every individual that comes across our doors. No matter what your circumstances are, you can change them for the better.

We combine Bucket Drumming, Modern Dance Choreography, Step Routines and Southern Show Style Drumming into one. Building off each other into a full production that is an electrifying and memorable experience for all.

At the end of every show we offer a Q&A session to allow your students to find out more about us and get direct answers from the source!



# Origins of Drumline

The origins of marching drumlines can be traced back to military traditions, where drums and bugles played a crucial role in communication and coordination on the battlefield.

The use of percussion instruments in military settings dates back centuries, with drummers playing a vital role in conveying commands and maintaining order among troops. The rhythmic beats of drums provided a clear and audible means of communication, allowing military units to coordinate their movements during parades, marches, and battles. This tradition laid the foundation for the evolution of marching drumlines as we know them today.

In the mid-20th century, the drum corps activity emerged, blending the military-style drumming with brass instrumentation, particularly bugles. Drumlines within these corps became integral components, providing intricate rhythmic patterns that complemented the brass sections. The visual and musical precision demanded by drum corps competitions influenced the development of modern drumline techniques and formations.



Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have played a significant role in shaping the evolution of marching drumlines. HBCU drumlines gained prominence through their participation in collegiate marching bands, particularly in halftime shows and parades. These drumlines became known for their high-energy performances, incorporating intricate choreography, innovative drumming techniques, and a strong emphasis on showmanship. The unique style and creativity displayed by HBCU drumlines have influenced the broader marching arts community, contributing to the vibrant and diverse landscape of contemporary drumline performances.

Today, marching drumlines continue to thrive in various contexts, from traditional military ceremonies to competitive drum corps and collegiate marching bands. The fusion of historical military traditions, drum corps innovation, and the distinct contributions of HBCU drumlines has resulted in a rich tapestry of styles and techniques within the world of marching percussion, showcasing the enduring legacy and adaptability of these rhythmic ensembles.

# Origins of Bucket Drumming



Bucket drumming, a percussive style that involves using buckets as makeshift drums, has its roots in street performance and informal music-making. While the precise origin is challenging to pinpoint, it gained popularity in urban environments, especially among street performers and musicians seeking a creative outlet with limited resources. This grassroots movement allowed individuals with a passion for rhythm to transform everyday objects into percussion instruments.

The practice of drumming on buckets likely draws inspiration from the broader tradition of street percussion, where improvised instruments and unconventional objects have been used to create rhythmic beats in public spaces. This resourceful approach to drumming became particularly prominent in urban settings, where performers utilized readily available items like buckets, trash cans, and other containers as percussion instruments. The affordability and accessibility of buckets made them a popular choice for those who wanted to engage in drumming without access to traditional drum kits.

As bucket drumming gained popularity, especially in cities with vibrant street performance scenes, it evolved into a distinct art form. Street drummers began developing specific techniques, rhythms, and even choreographed routines, turning bucket drumming into a visually engaging and acoustically dynamic performance style. Over time, it has expanded beyond street corners to include organized performances, educational programs, and even formalized groups, showcasing the adaptability and creativity of drummers who turned a humble utility item into a unique form of urban percussion expression.

# Instruments in a Drumline



A drumline is a dynamic ensemble within a marching band that showcases a variety of percussion instruments, each contributing distinct sounds and roles to create a powerful and rhythmic performance. The backbone of the drumline often includes the snare drums, which are shallow cylindrical drums with tightly stretched heads on both the top and bottom. Played with drumsticks, the snare drum produces sharp and distinctive sounds, providing the marching band with a precise rhythmic foundation. The players' technique involves intricate stick work and precise coordination, essential for executing complex patterns in unison.

Adding depth and resonance to the drumline is the bass drum, a large drum with a wide diameter and a deep shell. Usually mounted in front of the player or carried with a harness, bass drums are struck with mallets or played with a foot pedal, creating a commanding low-frequency punch that punctuates the ensemble's sound. The bass drum's role extends beyond rhythm, often accentuating key points in musical arrangements, making it a fundamental component in enhancing the overall impact of the drumline's performance.

Complementing the snare and bass drums are the quad drums, also known as tenor drums, featuring four closely pitched toms mounted on a single stand. Played with multiple drumsticks, quad drums add melodic and rhythmic complexity to the ensemble, enriching the overall texture of the drumline's sound. Typically positioned on a player's carrier, quad drummers showcase precision and agility as they navigate the intricate patterns required for their instrument. Together, these instruments create a cohesive and dynamic drumline, capturing the attention of audiences with their synchronized beats and impressive visual displays in marching band performances.

**Snare** - A versatile percussion instrument featuring a shallow cylindrical shell with tightly stretched drumheads on the top and bottom; it incorporates metal snares on the bottom head to produce its distinctive crisp and buzzing sound when struck with drumsticks, contributing to rhythmic patterns in various musical genres.

**Bass** - A large, low-pitched percussion instrument characterized by a resonant drumhead stretched over a deep shell, played with a mallet or foot pedal; it serves as a foundational element in many musical genres, providing powerful and rhythmic accents.

**Tenor** - A set of four closely pitched tom-toms mounted on a single stand; played with drumsticks, it adds dynamic and melodic elements to percussion ensembles, often featured in marching bands and drumline performances.

# Activity: "Rhythmic Exploration with Bucket Drumming"

## Objective:

To introduce students to the world of percussion through an interactive and creative bucket drumming session, fostering rhythmic understanding, teamwork, and enthusiasm for musical expression.

## Materials Needed:

1. Buckets and Trash Cans
2. Drumsticks or mallets
3. Small whiteboards or paper and markers
4. Basic rhythm notation handouts (optional)



## Instructions:

- Introduction (15 minutes):
  - Begin by discussing the importance of percussion in music and its role in creating rhythm and energy.
  - Introduce the concept of bucket drumming as a fun and accessible way to explore percussion.
  - Discuss the different sounds that can be produced by hitting different parts of the bucket and how these can be combined to create rhythms.
- Basic Rhythmic Concepts (15 minutes):
  - Teach students some fundamental rhythmic concepts, such as quarter notes, eighth notes, and basic drumming notation.
  - Use simple clapping exercises to practice these rhythms before transitioning to the buckets.

- Bucket Drumming Techniques (20 minutes):
  - Distribute buckets and drumsticks to each student.
  - Demonstrate basic bucket drumming techniques, including proper grip, different striking surfaces on the bucket, and how to create varying sounds.
  - Practice simple rhythmic patterns as a class, encouraging students to experiment with dynamics and tempo.
- Group Composition (20 minutes):
  - Divide the class into small groups and provide each group with a set of rhythmic patterns or allow them to create their own.
  - Instruct students to collaboratively compose a short bucket drumming piece using the learned rhythms.
  - Encourage creativity and experimentation while ensuring each group works together to create a cohesive performance.
- Performance and Reflection (15 minutes):
  - Each group performs their bucket drumming composition for the class.
  - After each performance, engage in a brief discussion about the experience, asking students to reflect on what they enjoyed and any challenges they faced.
  - Emphasize the importance of teamwork, active listening, and creativity in the process.

This bucket drumming activity not only introduces students to percussion but also enhances their rhythmic understanding and teamwork skills in a fun and engaging way.







Kindly be aware that you share this performance space with both the artists and fellow audience members. Your considerate conduct plays a vital role in fostering a positive and enjoyable theater experience for everyone involved.

**Prepare:** Be sure to use the restroom before the show begins!

**Find Your Seat:** When the performance is about to begin, the lights will dim. This is a signal for the artists and the audience to put aside conversations. Settle into your seat and get ready to enjoy the show!

**Look and Listen:** There is so much to hear (dialogue, music, sound effects) and so much to see (costumes, props, set design, lighting) in this performance. Pay close attention to the artists onstage. Unlike videos, you cannot rewind if you miss something.

**Energy and Focus:** Artists use concentration to focus their energy during a performance. The audience gives energy to the artist, who uses that energy to give life to the performance. Help the artists focus that energy. They can feel that you are with them!

Talking to neighbors (even whispering) can easily distract the artists onstage. They approach their audiences with respect, and expect the same from you in return. Help the artists concentrate with your attention.

**Laugh Out Loud:** If something is funny, it's good to laugh. If you like something a lot, applaud. Artists are thrilled when the audience is engaged and responsive. They want you to laugh, cheer, clap and really enjoy your time at the theater.

**Discover New Worlds:** Attending a live performance is a time to sit back and look inward, and question what is being presented to you. Be curious about new worlds, experience new ideas, and discover people and lives previously unknown to you. Your open mind, curiosity, and respect will allow a whole other world to unfold right before your eyes!



# THE PACK DRUMLINE



**@ThePackDrumline**

**ThePackDrumline.Com**

**ThePackDrumline@Gmail.Com**