Who are we?
Year after year, audiences in the Superior Dome have been thrilled by the exciting musical sounds and intricate marching formations of the Wildcat Marching Band.

We take great pride in performing a different halftime show at each home football game, as well as other venues.

The band has many traditions both social and musical, including hosting area high schools for Band Day and the formation of script “Cats” on the field for Homecoming.

Each of our sections: woodwind, brass, percussion, and color guard, participate equally to create halftime shows that show off spectacular marching and musicianship.

The Wildcat Band is a great ensemble to be a part of when you’re first getting to know NMU or renewing old friendships. Where else can you earn college credit for having such a great time?

Who are we looking for?
Anyone willing to put in a little work and have a lot of fun is welcome to audition. We’re looking for enthusiastic people who want to continue their musical experience at the collegiate level.

Our band consists of woodwinds, which gives us the special band sound of which we are so proud; brass, which provides the big sound that marching bands are known for; percussion, which supplies the rhythmic drive to keep the audience’s feet stomping; and color guard, which utilizes flags and other special equipment to add dramatic effect to our performances.

What about Band Camp?
Band camp is held the week before classes start, beginning on Monday, August 22. You will be able to move into your own dorm room early to attend this required camp.

Marching and playing auditions are held the first two days of camp and are required to become a band member. We'll send additional information to you in late July so you can begin preparing the enclosed audition music.

You’ll spend the week learning music and drill for the pregame show and at least one halftime show. You will also have a chance to make many new friends and become familiar with campus before classes start.

What music does the band play?
Our mixture of popular, classical and jazz music promises you new, exciting music every season. Many of the musical arrangements performed by The Pride are written especially for the band. Some past selections include:

- Some Nights — Fun/Jeff Bhasker
- Pirates of the Caribbean — Klaus Badelt/Hans Zimmer
- Halo Theme — Martin O'Donnell/Michael Salvatori
- Appalachian Spring — Aaron Copland
- Caravan — Duke Ellington
- You Can Call Me Al — Paul Simon
- Sing, Sang, Sung — Gordon Goodwin’s Big Phat Band

When does the band rehearse?
All marching band members are required to register for MU 114 and will earn .5 credit hours. Rehearsals are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 4-5:30 p.m., and Thursdays from 6:30-9 p.m. Game days also include a Saturday morning rehearsal. The band also plays at the Fall Commencement, which is on the Saturday at the end of Finals Week.

Rehearsal attendance is mandatory for all members. Minor class conflicts can usually be worked around; otherwise, band members may be excused from rehearsal for personal emergencies or illness only.

What does membership cost?
Very little for members! We provide uniforms, music, and an instrument if you need one. The only items students are required to purchase are black marching shoes and a uniform t-shirt, which are available at a reasonable cost. The university pays for all travel expenses when the band performs on the road. Items such as band jackets are optional – you can buy one if you’d like.
Meet the Directors

Dr. Stephen Grugin is in his 18th year as Director of Bands and Professor of Low Brass at NMU. He previously served in similar positions at Western Michigan University, Western Kentucky University and Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. He was also the director of a very successful high school band program in Oxford, Ohio.

Dr. Grugin earned bachelor degrees in music education and jazz studies from Ohio State University, a master’s in conducting from Northwestern University and his doctorate in music education from The Florida State University. Dr. Grugin has served as guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator in several states and is an arranger for university marching bands across the United States.

Dr. James A. Strain has been a professor of music at NMU for the last 17 years, teaching courses in percussion, music theory, and music appreciation. His previous teaching experience includes positions at University of Indiana at Bloomington, where he served as a visiting assistant professor of percussion; Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas, where he was both assistant professor of percussion and assistant director of bands; and Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, as an assistant professor of music.

Dr. Strain received his bachelor of music education with distinction from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, his master’s in music from the University of Cincinnati’s College Conservatory of Music where he was on full-tuition university scholarship, and his doctorate from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York.

Wildcat Marching Band

2015 Performance Schedule

September 12 — 4 p.m.
Youth Sports Day
Quincy

September 18 (Friday) — 5:30 p.m.
Homecoming Parade

September 19 — 4 p.m.
Homecoming Game
Hillsdale

October 3 — 4 p.m.
Children’s Cancer Fundraiser
Saginaw Valley

October 10 — 1 p.m.
Family Weekend
Malone

October 24 — 1 p.m.
Band Day
Ashland

November 7 — 1 p.m.
Senior Day
Ferris State

December 12 — 10:30 a.m.
Fall Commencement

Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at nmu.edu/music