



Dear Musician Applicant,

Congratulations on taking the next steps to becoming a Marine Musician. Please review the following letter and enclosed materials to familiarize yourself with the process of becoming a United States Marine Musician. There are two essential elements to the process; you must establish your entrance qualifications as a musician and you must establish your entrance qualifications as a Marine. The Musician Placement Director is the Marine responsible for reviewing and certifying your musical qualification. A local Marine Corps recruiter will help you determine your Marine Corps entrance qualifications and guide you through the process of becoming a Marine.

Establish Musical Qualification

In order to become eligible to serve as a Marine Musician, musical proficiency must be established in accordance with Marine Corps Audition Standards. By following a two round process, we will establish an applicant's potential for service as a Marine Musician. The first round is a Screening Round wherein we learn about the applicant's musical background and establish the likelihood of successfully meeting the requirements of the next round. The second round is the Audition Round. This consists of a live audition proctored by the Musician Placement Director. This serves as the final determining factor for establishing musical entrance qualifications for service as a Marine Musician.

Screening Round

The Screening Round is used to establish musical background and potential to succeed in the Audition Round. The applicant will provide the following materials: Recorded video of applicant performing the supplied instrument specific musical excerpts, a completed Musician Screening and Evaluation Questionnaire and most recent Resume' (resume optional).

Audition Round

Based on the Screening Round, the applicant may be invited to perform the Audition Round. The Musician Placement Director will hold the Audition Round within the applicant's geographical area. The Audition Round for all Guitar and Bass Guitar instrumentalists consists of the following:

Event 1 – Perform 3 to 5 prepared songs in contrasting styles including at least (1) Jazz/Swing, (1) Latin, and (1) Rock/Contemporary styled piece. The applicant should use backing tracks. The included PDFs provide 3 options to choose from for each style. Choose one of each style. For the jazz and Latin styles, prepare each selected piece as follows: First chorus – stylistic presentation of the melody, Second chorus – stylistic comping and Third chorus – improvised solo. The order may be changed and further stylistic elements added as inspired. Embellishments of melodies should be consistent with the style. Comping should reflect rhythmic patterns stylistically consistent and demonstrate voice leading that is smooth and natural from chord to chord. Iconic recordings are recommended for reference and inspiration. For the Rock/Contemporary selection, it is suggested that the candidate perform with the original recording. The applicant should pay close attention to the tone for each style/genre. Choice of effects, amp settings and instrument choice are also essential elements of the audition.

Event 2 – Perform from memory Major, Natural Minor, Harmonic Minor and Jazz Melodic Minor Scales (all 2 octaves). There are a total of 12 scales per type for a total of 48 scales. The proctor will ask for a sample of 3 to 4 scales of his choosing per type for a total of 12 to 16 scales.

Event 3 – Perform sight-reading as provided by proctor.

Sincerely,
Gunnery Sergeant Mark Lemstrom
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