



the midwest pipe band association

www.mwpba.org

MWPBA Massed Band Commands 101

A brief summary of commands and procedures to expect during MWPBA Massed Band ceremonies

Bringing the assembled first wave on to the field (and repeated for each Wave)

**“Massed Bands, Wave 1” – “Drums Up! Pipes Up!”
– “Atten-shun!”**

“Massed Bands, Wave 1, (Tune Name)” – “By the Center” – “Quick March!”

(Mace Signals will be used to now control the massed bands until playing stops)

Massed bands now assembled, playing of tunes either while marching or in place

Either marching with countermarch

“(Tune Name)” – “By the Center” – “Quick March!”

Or marching in place

“(Tune Name)” – “At the Halt” – “Quick March!”

Massed band players get comfortable for announcements and award ceremony

**“Massed Bands” – “Stand at Ease! Stand Easy.”
– “Drums Down! Pipes Down!”**

Massed bands prepare to play final tune selection

“Massed Bands” – “Drums Up! Pipes Up!”

“Massed Bands” – “Atten-shun!”

Either marching with countermarch

“Massed Bands”, (Tune Name) – “By the Center” – “Quick March!”

Or marching in place

“Massed Bands, (Tune Name)” – “At the Halt” – “Quick March!”

(Mace Signals will be used to now control the massed bands until playing stops)

Massed bands dismissal

“Massed Bands” – “Dis-missed!” (all players turn right, pause for 2, then exit)



Following Drum Major Mace Signals at Massed Bands

Mark Time (Marching in place)

It is typical when the massed band marches on to the field that there will be a transition to marking time while playing the remainder of the tune selection at the halt.

The DM mace moves parallel with the ground, both arms down. On the next left foot the two arms are extended above the head to show the mark time; simultaneously the left foot checks, the right foot comes in line and the left foot is raised. Marking time by the DM and all players continues to the end of the current part of music.

On the last beat of the part the mark time stops with the right leg descending to the ground. At this point the DM arms are dropped back to either side of the body, holding the mace parallel with the ground. This indicates to stop marking time.

*This does **NOT** mean to stop playing, just because marking time has stopped. The massed band has simply now transitioned to playing at the halt. A separate mace command will be issued to stop playing in due course.*

Cutting Off

At end of the piano part, the Senior Drum Major in charge gives precautionary signal to other Drum Majors. On the fifth beat following all Drum Majors move mace to the cease play position. All Drum Majors complete cut-off and on signal from Drum Major in charge return mace to the carry or standing position.

Only the Senior Drum Major in charge gives signal for bass drum beats.

Countermarch

The mace is swung to the vertical and the head of the mace is down. About turn clockwise at the same position as the Drum Major.

Restarting (On the March)

More typically seen on Parade than in Massed Bands

“(Tune Name)” – “Rolls” – “Quick March!”