



*RPT Percussion Presented by Paradigm*

## FREQUENTLY ASKED .....

### GENERAL

**What and who is RPT Percussion Ensemble?** RPT Percussion Ensemble, often referred to as “RPT,” is a Percussion Independent A Class competitive ensemble with home base in Lake County Florida. We pride ourselves in the education and growth of our members throughout the course of the seasons they spend with us. Our members come from all over the Central Florida area. We are a Project of Paradigm Performance Groups and are a registered 501(c) (3) organization. We are members of Winter Guard International (WGI) and Florida Federation of Colorguards (FFCC) circuits, competing in the Percussion Independent A classification and DCI Drum Line Battle

RPT Percussion is the 2014 & 2015 FFCC Independent Class A Gold Medalist's, 2013 WGI Orlando Percussion Regional Bronze Medalists, 2015, 2022 WGI Orlando Percussion Regional Silver Medalists, 2015-2019 WGI World Percussion Championships Finalist, 2018 WGI World Percussion Championships Semi-Finalist, 2022 FFCC Independent Class A Silver Medalist and 2022 WGI World Percussion Virtual Championships Finalist

**When was RPT formed?** RPT was founded in Jacksonville FL in September 2008 as RIPTIDE Independent Percussion Ensemble under the umbrella of Teal Sound Drum and Bugle Corps. In 2011, we broke away from Teal Inc and rebranded as RPT Percussion in 2012.

**How competitive is RPT Percussion?** RPT competes in the Percussion Independent A class of WGI and FFCC against other groups in the same class. Most of the other competitors are based in locations throughout Florida and the United States, but there are some international groups as well. We expect every member to put his or her personal commitment to the ensemble very near the top of his or her priorities; this commitment is one of the main ingredients for the group's overall competitive success throughout a season.

**What school are you affiliated with?** RPT Percussion is an independent organization and is not affiliated with any school. We are funded entirely by our own members, along with fundraisers, donations, and sometimes grants. However, we Partner with a few schools including Tavares High School Band and Lake Highland High School Band for facilities and some equipment usage.

### AUDITIONS / CLINIC

**What is the Audition process?** The audition process at RPT Percussion is education and clinic based, meaning you will receive World-Class instruction throughout, regardless of whether you are at the audition as a potential member or just to continue your percussion learning. The auditions happen on separate weekends. The Director will notify all those that will be offered a spot thru email. The email will also include the Membership Packet and Handbook. We are a TEACHING organization, and never turn anyone away solely dependent on talent. We will offer a spot to those that are committed and want to work hard. Although we cannot guarantee that that spot will be the one you originally auditioned for, we will find a spot for you that best applies to your talent, your growth and for the benefit of the entire ensemble. We believe strongly in the musical and personal growth of students, at all skill levels. We strive to have every auditionee leave a RPT Percussion audition clinic feeling great. We want to make you a smarter musician. A more confident performer. A stronger leader. And of course, we want you to meet other like-minded students and make some new friends during the process

**Who can be a member of RPT Percussion?** Anyone not older than 21 years of age as of May 31st of any given year and at least 14 years of age is eligible to be a member of RPT. However, being offered a contract to be with the group is not only dependent on age, but also on your levels of achievement, attitude, and accountability. RPT does not discriminate based on gender, religion, race, sexuality, ethnicity, or socio-economic status.

**Who is on staff?** RPT Percussion has three teams of staff: the administration team, the design team, and the education team. The administration team manages the group's finances, logistics, scheduling, general operations, etc. The design team works together to create, implement, and develop the group's musical/visual production for the season. The education team works closely with the members, helping them maximize their competitive, musical, athletic, health, and personal success. Most staff personnel are volunteers, some of which are alumni of RPT Percussion. There are also some staff who currently instruct and/or design for some of the Best High School and drum corps in the South.

### BEING A MEMBER

**What kind of time commitment is necessary to be a member of RPT Percussion?** Being a member of RPT does come with a very strong time commitment to the group. Rehearsal camps are usually held on multiple Sundays in October and November. Starting in December, we move to weekly Saturday rehearsals from 10am-9pm and every other Sunday from 10am-4pm until the middle of April, ending after the conclusion of WGI Championships in Dayton, Ohio. There are also Two (2) Weekend long rehearsal camps (Monster Camps) held prior to our first competition and before FFCC or WGI Championships. Not only is each member expected to attend every camp possible and every performance, but every member should be able to commit free time during the week in between rehearsal weekends to working on their skills and music in order to come to rehearsal mentally and physically prepared.

**Is it possible to be a member of RPT Percussion and attend school/college?** Nearly every performing member of RPT is a full-time high school and/or college student. Participating in RPT will teach a member how to balance his or her life so he or she is successful in both school and RPT. This balance is a strong value we like to teach our members, as it is something a member will implement in life after becoming a RPT Percussion alumnus

**Is it possible to do RPT Percussion and have a job?** Yes, if a work schedule does not interfere with RPT's rehearsal and performance schedule. Although RPT will always try to accommodate a member's school scheduling conflict (e.g., percussion recital held the day of a rehearsal/MPA), RPT does not consider a work scheduling conflict a valid excuse to miss an RPT rehearsal and/or a performance. Members are expected to give their employer a copy of their schedule and work out their work schedule

## RPT FAQ continues

**Is it possible to do RPT Percussion and march in Drum Corps? Yes.** Each year, many IMPACT members audition for and march drum corps. We encourage this! It is very possible to march WGI and DCI at the same time. If you are planning to audition for a drum corps, please let your Caption Head know so we can discuss and review any performance conflicts.

**When are rehearsals?** After the audition process ends (typically sometime in October), rehearsals are held Sundays in October and November then Saturdays starting in December. All Saturday rehearsals are 10am-9pm from January until the conclusion of WGI Championships in Dayton, Ohio. We do hold 2 weekend rehearsals and one Saturday/Sunday rehearsal during season also. Our website will host a list of the rehearsal dates for the season, posted shortly after the audition process. In addition, members are given a detailed paper schedule for the season, and are contacted regularly about rehearsal times, locations, and updates through internet and mobile communications, such as email, a Facebook group, and mass text messages sent to members' cell phones.

**What are RPT Percussion rehearsals like?** The atmosphere in rehearsal is very goal-oriented and focused on achieving excellence in performance, musicianship, and athleticism. We give plenty of breaks to our members to support the members' health, something we care very strongly about. Members leave a rehearsal weekend feeling fulfilled, engaged, and eager to return the following weekend. Monster Camps typically begin on Friday evening around 7:00PM and last until mid-Sunday afternoon

**How do I get to rehearsal?** Members are REQUIRED to make sure they have reliable transportation to and from rehearsals, fundraisers, and most local performances. Typically, members will carpool with other members in their area. Sometimes, members will pick up another member if he or she lives along their route. Members have also taken buses, trains, bikes to rehearsal. We do our best to assist to make sure our members have a ride from the train/bus station to the rehearsal site or to help set up a carpool. However, please understand that we are not a Transportation Hub. We expect our members to take the responsibility in setting up their transportation, that is part of being in an independent group. We will assist as necessary.

**Where do members sleep during the weekend?** RPT Percussion does not provide housing during standard weekend rehearsals. However, once the membership is set, we will do our best to help assist in planning for housing. Most will work with another members to stay with them. Very rarely do members have to spend extra money to sleep in a motel/hotel for the weekend. RPT will do everything we can to ensure every member has adequate and appropriate housing for the weekend. when needed

**What do we eat during the weekend?** RPT Percussion will occasionally provide a meal for the entire group, but in most cases, members are responsible for their meals. We do ask any parents that would like to volunteer to provide meals for camps. In the past, parents have gotten together to provide dinner at camp weekends for members and staff. RPT encourages members to choose to eat healthy, as we strongly care about the health of our members. A health professional will attend some rehearsals to educate our members about improving their health and give them advice on how and what to eat during a rehearsal weekend.

## PERFORMANCES

**How many competitions or performances does RPT Percussion have in a season?** RPT traditionally begins performances of their production end of January. We typically compete in 2-3 FFCC contests, WGI regionals in Central Florida area and possibly one outside the area or out of state, at FFCC Percussion Championships, and WGI World Championships. Also, we often host a Pre-Premiere show and a "send-off" show the weekend before WGI Championships.

**When are the performance dates?** Most performances occur on Saturdays. FFCC Percussion Premier will be held end of January at a location in the Orlando area and lasts all day. Other WGI Regional and FFCC events are between February and April. FFCC Championships are End of March, in Daytona Beach and WGI Championships in Dayton, Ohio, April 19<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> 2023 - a three-day event, with PIA preliminary performances on Thursday and PIA Semifinals and Finals on Friday, and World Class finals on Saturday. The specific dates and times of RPT's performances will be announced on our website, our Facebook page, and our Twitter page. Members will also receive a paper schedule. We ask that you also be somewhat flexible as the schedule is subject to change~ We also get hired from time to time for local area conventions and parades. These events not only help defray costs, but are great community builders

## FINANCIAL COSTS

**How much does it cost to be a member of RPT Percussion?** It costs approximately \$45,000 a year to run the organization. Member fees for RPT vary slightly from year to year, this year's tuition fee will be between \$1600.00 - \$1700.00 for the whole season. The fee can be paid through multiple installments throughout the season (or you can pay a lump sum) with a down payment Commitment Fee of \$250.00 once you are contracted. The Tuition fee helps pay for costumes, props, staff, music, drill, equipment, instruments, rehearsal facilities, competition registration fees, equipment transportation, insurance and ALL costs to attend the WGI World Championship in Dayton Ohio. and much more. Members are responsible for incidentals such as additional member shirts, member jacket, food, under armor shirt and performance shoes

**How can I afford it?** Members will be able to participate in fundraisers to help pay for their fees. Details on fundraisers will be made available to members at the start of each season. We also provide members with sponsorship forms to seek funds from local businesses. Members in need of financial assistance may also apply for scholarships. Information about how to apply for scholarships will also be made available at the beginning of the season. We are 501© 3, donations are tax-deductible.

**For more information about RPT Percussion visit [www.rptpercussionflorida.com](http://www.rptpercussionflorida.com) or email us at [rptpercussion@gmail.com](mailto:rptpercussion@gmail.com)**

**PLEASE NOTE: RPT PERCUSSION RESPECTS ALL FLORIDA BAND MASTER (FBA) AND FLORIDA MUSIC EDUCATORS (FMEA) MUSIC EDUCATION/STANDARDS EVENTS AND WILL ALWAYS DEFER TO SAME WHENEVER POTENTIAL SCHEDULING CONFLICTS MAY ARISE**