

INSIDE THE CIRCLE:

A PROVEN METHOD FOR A SUCCESSFUL MARCHING BAND

By Matt and Ben Harloff

FULL ENSEMBLE CHAPTER

DIRECTOR'S SCORE

2nd Edition

by Matt and Ben Harloff

FOREWARD

YOU and YOUR students just hit the jackpot, and it will be boldly evident the instant you begin integrating the proven techniques that serve as the cornerstones to Matt and Ben Harloff's priceless contribution: **INSIDE THE CIRCLE: A Proven Method for a Successful Marching Band**.

We all know there is no substitute for "time on task," but it is critically important to bring the best pedagogy available to the learning forum, and - frankly - you have it your hands. This is far more than another set of warm-up exercises or chop-builders; it is a sequential blueprint certain to open up new landscapes of possibilities to every serious musician, from the aspiring young beginner to the most advanced artist.

Having witnessed the extraordinary success of the various ensembles under the tutelage of the Harloff's, it is ever-apparent they are master educators and innately gifted musicians in their own right. **INSIDE THE CIRCLE: A Proven Method for a Successful Marching Band** represents the fruition of many years of personal discipline and spirited discovery; it is the outcome of countless hours of hands-on-research in the ongoing quest to find the certain pathway-to-excellence. Mission accomplished.

I'm always a proponent of substantive curriculum (the message) for it is authored by those who have made-the-journey, and those who continue to seek the next level of quality in everything they do. Without question, Matt and Ben Harloff (the messengers) are at the forefront of the band world, and their caring-sharing spirit is vividly threaded throughout the following pages.

CONGRATULATIONS to YOU for taking a positive step forward that will benefit your students, your ensemble, and your entire music program. Satisfaction guaranteed!

-Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser

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BIOGRAPHIES

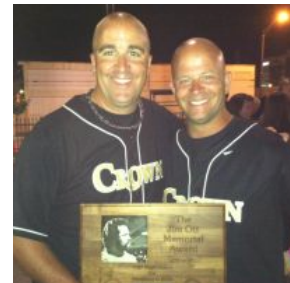


MATT HARLOFF

After graduating from Indiana University in 1996 with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education, Matt Harloff was appointed the Assistant Band Director for the Avon Band Department in Avon, Indiana. He earned a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Indianapolis in 2001.

Matt is the Assistant Director for all five concert bands at Avon High School. The Avon Concert Bands consistently receive superior ratings at the Indiana State School Music Association Organizational Contests. The Avon High School Wind Symphony consistently performs at the Indiana State Concert Band Championships, and was awarded the 2012 State Concert Band Champion. Matt is the Director of the Avon Brass Choir and led the Avon Trumpet Choir at the 2012 Indiana Music Education Association Conference. He is the Assistant Director of the Avon Marching Black and Gold. This group has won nine state championships, are consistent Bands of America Grand National Finalists and were Grand National Champions in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

In 2003, Matt joined Carolina Crown Drum and Bugle Corps as the Brass Caption Head. Matt, with the support of management, a committed staff and talented members, has built the Crown Brass to be one of the elite programs in the country. The Carolina Crown Brass Section has won the Jim Ott Memorial Award for High Brass three times in 2009, 2011 and 2012. Matt was a brass instructor for The Cadets in 1998, 1999 and 2002. He was a performing member of The Star of Indiana Drum and Bugle Corps from 1989-1995 and served as the drum major in 1993.



Matt is a native of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. He is very proud of his musical family; his father Bill and brother Ben are also band directors. Matt's most important job is helping raise his two beautiful children, Tyson and Shaelyn. Matt is married to his wonderful wife Susie, who shares his passion for the happiest place on earth: Walt Disney World.

BEN HARLOFF



Ben Harloff has two degrees from Indiana University: Trumpet Performance and Music Education. While at IU Ben studied trumpet with Edmund Cord, Stephen Burns, John Rommel and Dominic Spera. He had the privilege to play in Ray Cramer's Wind Ensemble and Dominic Spera's final Indiana University Jazz Band. Ben completed a Master's Degree in conducting from Southern Oregon University in 2008.

When he was twelve years old, Ben's drum corps career began with the Phantom Regiment Cadets. Ben marched Star of Indiana from 1990 to 1993 at which time he had an opportunity to perform under an incredible instructional staff, including Star's Brass Caption Head Donnie Van Doren. He also performed with Star of Indiana's Brass Theater where he had the privilege of working with the prestigious Canadian Brass.

Ben was one of the trumpet soloists in both the original London and New York casts of the show "Blast!", which was the 2001 recipient of the Tony Award for "Best Special Theatrical Event" and also won the 2001 Emmy Award for "Best Choreography."

Since 1999 Ben has been teaching drum corps including The Cadets, Magic of Orlando, Crossmen, Syracuse Brigadiers, Blue Knights, Troopers, Minnesota Brass, and Blue Stars. He continues to be a proud brass staff instructor for Carolina Crown.

Ben was a band director at Clay Middle School in Carmel, Indiana for two years and at Eastview High School in Apple Valley, Minnesota for three years. Since 2008, Ben has been a band director in the Wayzata school district in Wayzata, Minnesota.

Ben has been judging marching band competitions and arranging for marching bands since 2000. He also has an instructional DVD called, "Release Your Sound." The DVD is written for high school and college brass musicians and can be purchased at thecrownstore.com.



Ben lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota with his wife Cindy and daughter Avabelle.

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to INSIDE THE CIRCLE: A Proven Method for a Successful Marching Band. It is an honor that you have chosen this book as a means to help your marching band. It is our hope you can benefit from these exercises, ideas and methods to help your students perform at the highest level and have a much more enjoyable experience. We have been blessed to have been taught by some of the best teachers in the marching band/drum corps activity. One of the most important lessons we have learned is: a consistent technique foundation is vital to the success of any musical ensemble. The purpose of this marching band method book is to share the foundation we have learned and researched. The ultimate goal is for students to have a positive learning experience that results in high level performance.

Before we go any further, what is the source of the INSIDE THE CIRCLE? When we marched with Star of Indiana, we did a lot of visual and music technique sessions where the brass section would stand in a circle. We brought that idea to the Carolina Crown Brass Section and noticed it did a lot more than simply teach fundamentals. Being in a circle allows students to have one single focus: the Center of the Circle. This circle minimizes distraction and has become a tradition the brass members embrace with pride. So much pride, in fact, today there are rules about who is allowed inside the circle. The reason there is pride among members of the circle is because this is where we all get stronger. It is the "locker room" of our program where the blood, sweat and tears come to fruition. It is the training place where each student pushes himself/herself to achieve a greatness unknown before the experience. What happens inside the circle is a training program that teaches, reteaches and reinforces a consistent technique program which gives students the skills necessary to perform at the highest level. This book shares with you the technique program we teach inside our circle.

This book is separated into three different chapters: Full Ensemble Chapter, Brass Chapter and the Woodwind Chapter.

The Full Ensemble Chapter focuses on creating a consistent technique approach to the full ensemble. We cannot stress enough the importance of having a consistent approach to the fundamentals. The book also gives an easy to comprehend fundamental program certain to advance your ensemble along the musical journey. It is jam-packed with many different fundamental sections strategically placed for maximum results: Breathing Exercises, Long Tones, Stagger Breathing, Flexibility/Scales, Note Length/Shapes Exercises, Show Articulation Exercises, Intonation Exercises, Chorales and Volume Exercises. While it may seem overwhelming, you do not have to concentrate on every single exercise in this book. You can select any area of focus to enhance any aspect of the ensemble. For example, if one day there needs to be more attention placed on intonation, structure your technique rehearsal to spend more time on the Intonation Exercises. The next day might be an articulation focus day and so on. This book is designed to support you and your students, and we hope it simplifies things for you (the teacher) and for your students. The exercises you choose to work on from this chapter are written to be memorized so you can work on them on the marching band field.

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The idea behind the Brass and Woodwind Chapters was created because brass and woodwind instruments have specific needs that are hard to focus on within Full Ensemble Exercises. The Brass and Woodwind Chapters are more focused on the development of the individual players, more so than the development of the ensemble. When individual players are stronger, the ensemble will be stronger. Think of the Brass and Woodwind Chapters as a private lesson method book, but your private lesson is with an entire section. These exercises were not written to be memorized. We use these exercises during the beginning of the year as well as indoor rehearsals. This offers students a longer and more focused technique session. Even though you are highlighting the individual needs, it is very important to continue to stay consistent with the full ensemble technique program.

Within each chapter you will find many different fundamental sections from which to choose. Each section has objectives and instructional notes to help you understand the technique program and how to properly execute that program. You will also find a feature called "Quick Comments for Students". If you are like us, sometimes you may not know what to say, or you are so focused on one thing you might ignore other technique issues. "Quick Comments for Students" is a feature designed to help give the director things to say, or critical reminders for students. If you are having one of those days where your mind is on some urgent responsibility and you still have a rehearsal, you can simply do the exercises, say everything in the "Quick Comments for Students" boxes and if applied, your students will get better.

Another important feature of this book (and a huge part of our program) is adding a visual component to your exercises. We have a quote we use: "It doesn't count unless you are on the move." What it means is, you might sound great standing still, but unless you are sounding great while marching, it doesn't count. This book gives you exercises, as well as a technique program, to support students to combine playing and moving. This book is NOT a visual technique book, it is a technique book where you work the music fundamentals while marching.

We hope this book is user-friendly and beneficial to you and your program. Another philosophical saying we often use is "keep it simple." This book is filled with an immense amount of information. We sincerely trust Inside the Circle: A Proven Method for a Successful Marching Band will support you and your students in achieving a higher level of performance, on and off the marching band field.

Matt and Ben Harloff