



# MUSIC IN THE SCHOOLS (GRADES 6-12)

## CLINICS - WINTER 2026 - DC, MD & VA

High schools and middle schools within a 15-mile radius of Marine Barracks Washington are eligible for in-person clinics given by musicians from "The President's Own" United States Marine Band. Clinics will take place Feb. 2-27, 2026. Music educators can sign up beginning at noon (EST), Jan. 12, 2026. Clinic availability is limited. One request per educator, please.

**Sign up:** [www.marineband.marines.mil/Educational/Music-in-the-Schools/](http://www.marineband.marines.mil/Educational/Music-in-the-Schools/)

### CLINIC TOPICS

1. Meet a Member for Band (Middle School)
2. For String Orchestra - Ask Me Anything (Middle School)
3. Practice Techniques for High School Musicians (High School)
4. Soundtrack Session: Methods and Techniques of Commercial Music (High School)
5. Fundamentals for Trumpet (High School)
6. For String Orchestra - Ask Me Anything (High School)

### CLINIC DESCRIPTIONS

1. **Meet a Member for Band (Middle School):** "Meet a Member" sessions allow students to connect with a musician in the Marine Band. The musician will share their unique journey, from beginning music student to playing in "The President's Own," give insight into the experience of being part of the Marine Band and answer questions from students.
2. **For String Orchestra - Ask Me Anything (Middle School):** Students are invited to join Master Sgt. Sarah Hart in a discussion about their music-related concerns. Master Sgt. Hart will perform on the viola and host a conversation on topics such as effective practice, careers in music and performance anxiety.
3. **Practice Techniques for High School Musicians (High School):** We've all heard that practice makes perfect, but what makes perfect practice? This clinic will give your students inspiration and practical tips to take their playing to the next level.
4. **Soundtrack Session: Methods and Techniques of Commercial Music (High School):** In this clinic, Marine Band trumpet player Staff Sgt. Ben Gunnarson will break down the instrumental recording and entertainment industry found in Los Angeles and New York and highlight the skills needed to make a record. This flexible experience takes students through an interactive process of recording an instrumental soundtrack and can be adapted to all ensemble types and skill levels including the combination of multiple ensembles together.
5. **Fundamentals for Trumpet (High School):** – Staff Sgt. Ben Gunnarson provides students tips and techniques for some of the most common problems trumpet players of all levels encounter. Students will investigate areas such as tone, technique, air support and fundamental skill-building on the trumpet, along with ideas for musicality, audition prep and knowledge of different trumpet playing styles. Please have all students bring their instruments. Bring questions! If desired, this experience can be widened to all brass players in your program.
6. **For String Orchestra - Ask Me Anything (High School):** Students are invited to join Master Sgt. Sarah Hart in a discussion about their music-related concerns. Master Sgt. Hart will perform on the viola and host a conversation on topics such as effective practice, careers in music and performance anxiety.