

# *The Renaissance*

2009-10: volume 9

## **The Ohio State University Marching Band November 4, 2009 7:00 PM**



### **The Back Bend**

During the introduction and verse of Buckeye Battle Cry, the drum major moves through the band and comes to the front of the ranks where he executes a back bend, forming his or her body into the shape of an O. As the drum major's plume touches the grass, the band starts to play two choruses of the Buckeye Battle Cry while moving toward the South Stands. The drum major reaches the end zone and tosses the baton through the goal post as the band finishes the downfield march. The opposing team's fight song is played as a salute to their university, returning the band to midfield before completing the pregame performance, which typically includes the highly acclaimed Script Ohio.

### **The Rigorous Process**

Each September, more than 400 student-musicians try out for one of the 225 open spots in the band. Every member, including those returning, must earn their spot each fall. The two-day tryout includes marching scores judged by squad leaders, a marching drill taught during tryouts and musical auditions heard by School of Music faculty members and former directors of the marching band. Successful candidates must do well in both areas.

- The final roster is announced at the end of the second day.
- Each year, some veterans are "cut," replaced by candidates who performed better in the tryout.
- New members are referred to as "rookies."
- Students are limited to five years in the band.

The band consists of 225 instrumentalists.

- 192 of these create the block band that is seen at every home game.
- The other 33 members are called alternates. These are members of the band who challenge the regular members every week for a spot in the 192-piece block.
- The alternates also understudy the week's halftime show with the squad leader in case someone gets sick or injured before the performance.
- All music is memorized, verified during music checks each Friday.

## Script Ohio

Script Ohio is the signature formation of The Ohio State Marching Band performed before or during halftime, or after home games.

- Script Ohio was first performed by The Ohio State Marching Band on October 10, 1936 at the Ohio State vs. University of Pittsburgh football game.
- The Script Ohio is the most identifiable trademark associated with Ohio State Football and The Ohio State Marching Band.
- It was devised by band director Eugene J. Weigel, who based the looped "Ohio" script design on the marquee sign of the Loew's Ohio Theatre in downtown Columbus.

Each time the formation drill is performed, a different fourth- or fifth-year sousaphone player has the privilege of standing as the dot in the "i" of "Ohio." Originally, an E-flat cornet player, John Brungart, was the first "i"-dotter. Because the Script Ohio formation was one of many new formations included by director Weigel, no extra emphasis was placed on the dotting. Brungart dotted the "i" two more times that season, in performances during halftime shows against the University of Pittsburgh and at The University of Chicago. In the fall of 1937, Weigel turned to Glen Johnson, a sousaphone player, and shouted, "Hey, you! Switch places with the trumpet player in the dot." Glen then became the first sousaphone player to dot the "i" on October 23, 1937. Since then, he has dotted the "i" over 80 times.

### Honorary "i"-dotters

Woody Hayes, Bob Hope, Jack Nicklaus, James "Buster" Douglas, OSU Presidents Novice Fawcett, Gordon Gee and their wives, composer the late Richard "Dick" Heine, Ann Droste, wife of retired director and former OSUMB member Dr. Paul Droste, and retired OSU ticket director Robert Ries are the select few non-band members who have had the honor of dotting the "i". This is considered the greatest honor the band can bestow to any non-band member and is an extremely special (and rare) event. The fourth or fifth year

sousaphone player selected to dot the "i" for that specific game must give up their spot in order for an honorary member to dot the "i".



### The Way to the OSU Band's Heart...

According to a former Student Manager, while performing out and about, the OSU Marching Band ranks the places they play by the food provided.