



RISING STARS BRASS BAND

Each band will perform two pieces, the required test piece and a choice piece. Participants may find links to purchase repertoire from the website: www.samusiccentral.org/rising-stars. All bands must provide two copies of the choice piece score, with all measures numbered and any cuts clearly marked.

Uniform: Salvation Army summer uniform or black/blue dress bottoms and white dress shirt.

Beginning band is an ensemble that has novice players or hasn't been in existence long. Level 1 AIES music would be a good indicator of this level. Bands in this category should first have the approval of the Divisional Music Director and not be looking to play a level 4 piece as their own choice.

Youth band is an ensemble that has been established for a while and has players who are more advanced. Level 2 music in AIES should be the lowest level that a junior band would play. They should be building on the skills learned as a beginning band member and be able to play in keys other than C and F, as well as navigate more complicated rhythmic and harmonic styles.

Instrumentation:

Eb Soprano Cornet, Bb Cornet, Bb Flugel Horn, Eb Alto (Tenor Horn), Bb Baritone, Bb Tenor Trombone, Eb Bass Trombone, Bb Euphonium, Eb Bass Tuba, Bb Bass Tuba, Snare and Bass Drums, Timpani, complete battery or percussion as required. Bands may be smaller ensembles, only using the instruments above.

Ensemble Size: Bands need to have a minimum number of 5 members. This can include up to 2 helpers who can be over the age of 25, and a bandmaster.

Time Limits: All bands have a total of 10 minutes. This time slot should include performance of both pieces, set-up and transition times. Choice pieces may have a cut if it is notated in the provided score to the judges.

Deadline for Territorial Round: All participants and information for the Territorial Round should be submitted via email to usc.thq.music@usc.salvationarmy.org by May 8, 2026.

LEVEL	REQUIRED PIECE	CHOICE PIECE
Beginner Band	The Gospel Train (AIES2414)	Any music from Salvation Army, Sacred or Classical Literature .
Youth Band	Come, Thou Almighty King (AIES2121)	



BAND SCORING GUIDELINES

ACCURACY - 50 points

- Notes (20 points possible)
 - Are the notes performed as written?
 - Are the notes placed smoothly and accurately?
- Rhythm (20 points possible)
 - Is the rhythm performed accurately?
 - Is the tempo steady?
- Articulation (10 points possible)
 - Are the notes accurately articulated as marked? (accents, staccatos, slurring, etc.)

TONE - 20 points

- Quality (10 points possible)
 - Does the sound represent beauty and clarity?
 - Is air used properly in sound production and breath support?
- Intonation (10 points possible)
 - Is the band in tune across the ensemble?

INTERPRETATION - 20 points

- Dynamics (10 points possible)
 - Are all dynamics played accurately?
 - Does the band have a wide range of dynamic capabilities?
 - Does the band play with good balance?
- Musicality/Phrasing (10 points possible)
 - Is there a sense of musicality/phrasing?
 - Is the music correctly represented in terms of tempo, style, and phrasing?

PERFORMANCE - 10 points

- Stage Presence (5 points possible)
 - Do band members exhibit correct playing posture and position?
 - Do band members look neat and sharp?
- Suitability (5 points possible)
 - Is the repertoire suitable for the band? Is it too easy or too hard?