

MARCH STYLE **Keys For Success**

Just like performing a math problem or an equation, we should consider the following “formula” when performing a march.

1. **Steady tempo** – We must maintain a steady tempo at all times. We have a tendency to slow down when we play soft and to rush when we play louder dynamic volumes.
2. **Subito dynamic effects** – Sudden dynamic changes are particularly effective especially when playing repeated sections of a march. Always attempt to expand the dynamic range.
3. **Trio section** – is always the softest section of a march.
4. **Accent** - beat 2 when possible, especially pick-up note(s).
5. **Lift** – after dotted rhythms especially dotted eighth notes.
6. **Space between notes** - the space between the notes are equally as important as the actual notes when performing marches. In general, we need even more spacing for a marcato feel when performing marches. These spaces between the notes give the band clarity.
7. **Editing percussion parts** – is acceptable (on marches only) if it adds to the style of the march. Adding light percussion to trio section often keeps tempo from slowing down. Boom/crashes from bass drum and cymbals can add to the excitement on the last strand of a march.
8. **Percussion positioning** – place crash cymbals in between the snare and bass drums for timing purposes. This has also been in the tradition of military bands.
9. **Always listen for the “new idea”** – On repeats or when a new counter-melody is introduced, soften the repeated medley so the new musical idea can be heard immediately.