

## **RSPBA - Pipe Band Musicianship Workshop Syllabus**

The Concept is that these Courses are a to provide an interactive involvement with the course participants regards developing their **Practical Musicianship Skillsets** to further the performance standards within a Pipe Band environment.

The course will focus on the Practical Aspects of Pipe Band Musicianship but can also be shaped to fit needs and wants of those attending.

Here are examples topics that can be covered:

- 1) The Player and the Performance.
- 2) Creating the Practice Environment
- 3) Musical Terminology \*\*
- 4) Creating the Sound Production of the Band in all aspects.
- 5) The Selection of Melodies
- 6) What is Ensemble
- 7) Ensemble within the Coalition of Pipes and Drums
- 8) Remedial Action's

### **1) The Player and the Performance**

For our purpose we can consider this Topic as the following and will be presented in a manner that will create an interactive involvement with the participants,

#### **Understanding the Discipline of a Performance:**

Ask the participants to contribute and offer any other aspects and give explanations of perhaps the following and other suggestions

Composure, Concentration, Confidence, Clarity of Instructions, Cohesion of the team, Rehearsed, Participation, Technical Abilities of the band.

Participants will be asked to select several of the elements from this Topic and apply these to their bands and then give a feed -back of their experiences during week end 2

### **2) Creating the Practice Environment**

This topic can be considered as a continuation of item 1

This will require the participants to evaluate and identify key areas that they should consider, to ensure that they are part of and contributing to a structured practice routine that will enhance the band members and bands performance capabilities,

The participants will also include any other key areas that they consider as important.

The lead Instructor should develop this as an open discussion with the course participants and then a further practical session applying group practice routines overseen by the course instructors.

### **3) Music Terminology**

This section is to share an understanding of Musical Terminologies that will be featured during the Course Presentations and Discussions  
It will be Instructor led at the initial stage and then a brief interactive discussion.

Music Terminologies such as:

Rhythm, Melody, Harmony, Pitch, Balance, Unison, Dynamics, Tempo, Integration, Intonation, Expression, Introduction

There will be a Course Prepared Handout for this Section.

### **4) Sound Production**

Interactive discussion and then a **Practical session on Pipes or Drums**

A) Instructor will open the discussion and stimulate conversations; the candidates will take notes for their practical involvements and personal feedback information regards:

Reed Manipulation: Chanter and Drone reeds,

Setting the reeds for Balance and Pitch Interval development.

Tuning the Instrument: Chanter and Drones - Sound Quality, Balance, and Harmonics

Moisture Control and Maintenance,

Using an Electronic Tuner

Remedial Action's :

B) Instructor will open the discussion and stimulate conversations; the candidates will take notes for their practical involvements and personal feedback information regards:

Drum preparations:

Preparing and maintaining the Snare Drum and Bass Section

Manipulation of the Snare Mechanisms and effects

Top and Bottom Skins and Tension effects

Sound Quality and Balancing the Corp Sound

Bass and Tenor Dampening and Tuning, Functional or Coloristic

Remedial Action's

### **5) The Selection of Melodies**

This would be an interactive discussion at the outset, then lead into the practicalities of Melody choices,

With reference being given to the importance of an understanding of the information and experiences that are developed from **Items 1 and 2**

To include Group sessions with the course Instructors

Further delivery of this topic can be enhanced by consultation with Mentors

### **6) What is Ensemble**

Envisage this as an entry level discussion regards understanding "Ensemble in Music"

There will be an Audio Input and interactive involvement regards this presentation

Ask participants to take notes and give responses i.e., emotive reactions and descriptors,

### **7) Ensemble within the Coalition of Pipes and Drums**

To give guidance on how to consider the units within a band so that they can create a basic but effective ensemble performance,

To refer and consider the importance of the information and practicalities that have been previously covered in the Topics 1,2,3 and 4 that will enhance their efforts,

## 8) Remedial Action's

This can be considered as a go to guide for reference by the Bandsman

### **Terminology:**

**Rhythm** – The regular reoccurrence of a Beat or Pulse within the bar measures of a Melody

**Melody** – The Arrangement of successive notes that flow horizontally along a Stave that achieve a Distinct Musical Shape,  
Both Pitch and Harmony also influence a Melody

**Harmony** – The simultaneous sounding of at least two pitches that can be considered as pleasing and in Accord.

**Pitch**- The Height or Depth of a Sound - Voice

**Balance** – To be in a harmonious relationship, this can also be considered as an aspect of the overall sound presentation of the band in relation to the Pipes and Drums in terms of Pitch, Volume, Unison, Projection, Intonation and Dynamic Qualities

**Dynamics** – To increase or decrease the Volume/Amplitude.

**Tempo** – The Speed at which a melody is played.

**Integration** – The effects of playing together and enhancing the overall Unison of the performance.

**Intonation / Timbre** - The Quality of the sound being produced.

**Phrasing** – Relates to the Interpretation of the Melodic Structure of a Melody

**Expression** – How we present the character of a melody.

**Introduction** – To create a co-ordinated and accurate attack to the Performance.

## **For Drum Majors**

The course will focus on Marching and Discipline as well as flourishing but can be adapted depending on the needs of those attending.

Booking link

<https://forms.gle/RNkDzW71F2dA17mR6>