



TO: Band Director
FROM: Craig McRae, Band Coordinator
RE: Parade Day Band Instructions

On behalf of all of us at The Santa Claus Parade headquarters, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your talented musicians for your willingness to perform in this year's Parade.

Please note the date of the parade is **Sunday, November 20, 2011, and parade start time is 12:30 p.m. SHARP**

The music that you provide is very important. Your performance will be watched by thousands of people along the Parade route, and also across Canada on television and the "Operation Santa Network". As well, it will be broadcast around the world on various networks. In the U.S. it will be shown on some networks on Thanksgiving.

The route for this year's Parade is as follows:

- East along Bloor St. from Christie St.
- South down the east side of Queen's Park circle and University Ave.
- East along Wellington Street to Church St.
- South on Church St. to buses.

1. MARSHALLING AREA FOR BANDS

- a. Bands will line up facing south on Christie St. from Bloor St., continuing northbound. Buses must enter Christie Street from the north, heading south. Buses must be clear of the Marshalling area by 11:15 am **at the latest.** Please advise your drivers as such.
- b. If you are arriving by subway take the Bloor St. line and exit at Christie St.
- c. Buses must avoid Bloor St. from Dufferin St. on the west to Bathurst St. on the east. Approach Christie St. by traveling on Dupont Avenue, and then south on Christie Street.
- d. If you need directions contact Craig McRae at 416-222-4494 or email bands@thesantaclausparade.ca

2. AT THE MARSHALLING AREA

- a. Upon arrival have your buses move south on Christie **as far as possible,** regardless of your position in the parade.
- b. Once your buses are parked, off load all equipment and musicians.
- c. Buses should move out as soon as possible.
- d. Have in your possession the band lineup. Do your best to locate your position. Band Marshals will be there to assist you.

The Marshals are:

Myself, Craig McRae, my wife Megan, my sister Pam McRae and my nephew Bradley. FEEL FREE TO APPROACH US WITH ANY QUESTIONS! **We will be wearing "BAND SATFF" Jackets**, and generally will be looking for the bands/buses/leaders so we may confirm arrival/placement.

It is advisable for large bands to stand off to one side, perhaps in the park. Place some of your band, perhaps members of the colour guard in your position on the street.

e. At 11:15 a.m. all buses **must** move out. If your bus is not ready it will have to remain parked where it is until the end of the parade and will not be able to meet your band until well after the parade.

3. **DIRECTIONS TO DISPERSAL AREA FOR BUS DRIVERS**

- a. The buses will proceed south on Christie St. across Bloor St. continuing south on Jersey St. (the continuation of Christie St.) to Harbord St. Turn east along Harbord to Spadina Ave., south on Spadina to Front St., east along Front St. to Church Street, south on Church Street to the Esplanade.
- b. The parking area for buses has been increased. It now includes the lower Church St. and the Esplanade from Yonge St. to Sherbourne. (DO NOT block the entrance to the Nova Hotel.)
- c. Band Marshals will have maps to the dispersal area if required. We have included detailed instructions with this email, feel free to make as many copies for your drivers as is needed.

4. **TIMES TO NOTE**

- 10-10:30 A.M. Bands to arrive at Marshalling area.(buses to leave as soon as possible.)
11:15 A.M. All buses to clear area.
12:00 P.M. All bands to be in position.
12:30 P.M. Parade moves off

5. **STARTING TIME**

- a. Parade will move east on Bloor Street starting at 12:30 sharp.
- b. Bands will move down Christie St. and perform a left wheel into your location in the Parade. The Band Marshals will indicate your time and place to move.
- c. At this point, it is important that all bands continue to move down Christie Street. Stay directly behind the band in front of you.

6. **DURING THE PARADE**

- a. Only Band Directors and Managers in uniform may march with the band.
- b. Bands must leave a clear path of four feet on each side (THIS IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL) for official vehicles to pass.**
- c. Maintain a distance of no more than 50 feet from the group in front of you. **DO NOT FALL BEHIND.** It is difficult to catch up. Spacing of the Parade is of **utmost** importance.
- d. Bands may NOT perform any special routines or countermarches that might impede on the progress of the Parade.
- e. Under no circumstances will bands or colour parties be allowed to carry rifles or other military props.
- f. There is a Marshal in charge of your section. Please follow his/her requests.
- g. Bands must not display any signs of private sponsors.
- h. No vehicles are allowed in the parade.
- i. Bands must not solicit funds from the audience.
- j. If a Musician becomes ill, speak to the Marshal with your section.

7. **MUSIC**

- a. This is a Christmas Parade for children. Your choice of music should reflect this theme. Do not play regimental music or theme songs.
- b. The performance of music should be as continuous as possible.

8. **SPECIAL AREAS**

There are two special areas for bands. All aspects of dressing and performance should be watched closely.

- a. Of primary importance is the coverage by Television, situated **south of** the Royal Ontario Museum at University and Bloor. They have set up a new location this year, several hundred yards south of where the former location was. There will be signs indicating that the music should start. The music should be continuous until you are well past the cameras. In past years, some bands have finished their selection just as they arrive at the cameras. Be prepared to repeat the selection without stop.

9. **DISBANDING**

- a. Band music will terminate at Front and Church. Bands will proceed south on Church St. to their buses, waiting on The Esplanade.
- b. The parking area is very congested. It would be a help if one of your drivers met the band.

10. **A FINAL NOTE** ☐

We have many great bands for our annual parade. It is always a pleasure to see so many bands returning year after year. Returning bands set the standard for all bands in the parade. We have bands from, New York State, and all over Ontario and Quebec. We greatly treasure the abilities of each of these bands, and are proud to present them in our parade!

If you have any questions please call me at my office 416-222-4494 or email at bands@thesantaclausparade.ca

Lastly- in an emergency on the day of the parade, my cell # is 416-806-7665, if you leave a message, I will call you back.

We are looking forward to a great parade!

Craig McRae
Band Coordinator
The Santa Claus Parade
416-222-4494

bands@thesantaclausparade.ca
www.thesantaclausparade.ca