



# *The* *Bandmasters* *Championship*

PRESENTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS BAND ALUMNI CHAPTER

October 9, 2024

Dear Participating Director,

On behalf of our entire contest staff, I want to thank you for choosing to participate in the 2024 Bandmasters Championship. The University of Memphis Band Alumni Chapter is pleased to present this event, in cooperation with the U of M Band, "The Mighty Sound of The South." We hope it will be the highlight of your 2024 marching season and a truly memorable experience for your students.

Enclosed is our Director's Guide, which provides all the information necessary to make the Bandmasters Championship an enjoyable experience for you and your band. It includes information such as directions to the stadium, procedures, rules, scoring, and awards.

Please take some time to review the contents of this packet. Key information is highlighted in bold print for your convenience.

Should you need additional information, please feel free to call me at (901) 870- 4629 or e-mail me at [jeremy@tigerbookstore.com](mailto:jeremy@tigerbookstore.com). We look forward to seeing and hearing your band for the 2024 Bandmasters Championship this weekend.

Sincerely,

Jeremy M. Stinson  
UofM Band Alumni Chapter, President  
The Bandmasters Championship, 2024 Contest Director



# DIRECTIONS TO LIBERTY BOWL MEMORIAL STADIUM

## From the East:

1. Take I-40 West until it becomes Sam Cooper Boulevard.
2. Proceed west on Sam Cooper to the Highland Street exit.
3. Turn left onto Highland and travel south to Central Avenue.
4. Turn right on Central and travel west.
5. The next light is on Hollywood Street after you go under the railroad bridge. You can turn left on Hollywood and right into the bus lots from there. Or continue on Central and turn left at the next light (Early Maxwell)- there, you will be directed where to go to park.

## From the South:

1. Take I-55 North to the I-240 Interchange.
2. Follow the signs to Nashville (I-240 East)
3. Take I-240 to the Getwell Road exit. Go north on Getwell Road.
4. Turn right on Park Avenue and proceed east to Goodlett Street.
5. Go north on Goodlett to Central Avenue.
6. Turn left on Central and travel west.
7. The next light is on Hollywood Street after you go under the railroad bridge. You can turn left on Hollywood and right into the bus lots from there. Or continue on Central and turn left at the next light (Early Maxwell)- there, you will be directed where to go to park.

## From the West:

1. Take the I-40 Bridge over the Mississippi River into Downtown Memphis.
2. Take the ramp for I-240 South (Jackson, Mississippi). Once on that ramp, you will see an exit for Madison Avenue. Take that exit.
3. Turn left (east) onto Madison Avenue until it ends at East Parkway.
4. Turn right on East Parkway and travel south to Central Avenue.
5. Turn left on Central Avenue and travel east to turn right on Early Maxwell.

## From the North:

- Take US Highway 51 to the I-40 Interchange
- Take I-40 East (toward Nashville) until you reach the Sam Cooper Boulevard exit
- Proceed west on Sam Cooper to the Highland Street exit.
- Turn left onto Highland and travel south to Central Avenue.
- Turn right on Central and travel west.
- After you go under the railroad bridge, the next light is Hollywood Street. You can turn left on Hollywood and right into the bus lots from there. Or continue on Central and turn left at the next light (Early Maxwell)- there, you will be directed where to go to park.

## ARRIVAL AND SETUP

- We encourage you to come early and watch other bands perform.
- Buses and Equipment Trucks will enter the parking lot at Access 4 off Hollywood or Access 7 off of Central. Please see the attached map for parking lots. Staff will be there to assist you in parking. If you have personal vehicles traveling with your band, they will have to park in the spectator lots unless they bring equipment with the band.
- It is recommended that your band arrive at the bus parking area no later than 90 minutes before your performance time. You should arrive even earlier if you require extra preparation (such as changing into uniforms or unloading heavy equipment).
- Your equipment truck may park with your buses upon your arrival. You may use the area near the North Tunnel as a prop staging area if necessary. If you need further assistance, please see our parking guides on arrival.
- Your Band Aides will meet you at the bus lot 30 minutes before your warm-up. If you arrive before that time, contest staff will be there to wristband students who are on the busses. They will also distribute the director and staff passes at this time. When it is 30 minutes before your warm-up, your band aide will meet you at your buses. These two individuals will remain with you until you have completed your performance.

Your Band Aides will:

- Review your scheduled warm-up and performance times
  - Review the announcer's sheet and get any last-minute changes from you
  - Guide you through the warm-up, performance, and seating process
- Restrooms are available inside the towers on Tiger Lane, should your students need to change into uniforms upon arrival.
  - The Information Center will be at the ticket booth next to Gate 4 (see Points of Interest Map). Several staff members with radios will be stationed throughout the event area to assist you with any questions or problems.
  - The First Aid Station will be located in the main concourse near Gate 4.

## DIRECTOR BADGES

When you arrive, contest staff will check your band in and park your buses in the parking lot. There you will be given passes for your staff, students, and chaperones. Below is an explanation of each pass:

- Director's Hospitality Pass** This pass will get you into the stadium, the first floor of the press box (director's hospitality), and onto the field for your performance.
- Equipment Pass** This pass is for the individuals helping you with equipment on the field. It will allow them access to the field and the stadium's seating area.

- **Chaperone Tickets:** We will give each band a number of chaperone wristbands based on the number of registered students. You will receive one wristband for every 10 students you have (rounded up). The wristbands will be given to the director for disbursement to these individuals.
- **Bus/Truck Driver Passes:** We will give each bus and truck driver a wristband to enter the stadium and enjoy the contest.
- **Students:** Each student will be given a wristband so that they can enter the stadium. If the wristband will hamper their performance in any way, they can leave it off until after their performance. If this is the case, they must keep the wristband on them to gain entry into the stadium.

## WARM-UP

- Your Aides will guide you to your designated warm-up area, as the Competition Schedule indicates. The warm-up areas are on Tiger Lane. Warm-up A is at Early Maxwell, and Warm-up B is on the section of Tiger Lane to the west of Early Maxwell.
- Each band is allotted thirty (30) minutes at the warm-up area. Out of respect to the bands that follow you, and to prevent a delay in your performance, please do not exceed your warm-up time.
- Please have your students point their instruments away from the Liberty Bowl to prevent sound from spilling into the stadium. If you are in warm-up area A, please play toward the Kroc center on your map. If you are in warm-up area B, play toward the southwest, facing East Parkway.
- Your Aides will advise you when you have five (5) minutes remaining to warm-up. We suggest you line your band up for field entry to prevent any delay in your performance time.
- Once your warm-up ends, your band must proceed immediately to the North Tunnel. Once there, please stay at the top of the tunnel and wait for the contest staff to let you into the tunnel. The performing band must exit the tunnel before the next band can enter.

## FIELD ENTRY

- All bands and equipment will enter the field through the North Tunnel. As you move from the tunnel onto the field, the spectators (concert side) will be to your LEFT. THIS IS NEW THIS YEAR!
- The height of the North Tunnel is nine feet, six inches (9'6"). Please advise your equipment managers if your band uses any tall props, backdrops, or platforms.
- Our staff will advise you when your band may depart the tunnel and enter the field. Drum clicks or cadences are permitted during your band's entry onto the field.
- Once you are permitted to enter the field, you have exactly fifteen (15) minutes to set up equipment, warm up on the field (if desired), perform, and exit the field. You may request the official contest time from the Field Coordinator at the 50-yard line.

- Admission to the Liberty Bowl field will be restricted to band members in uniform; directors, instructional staff, and field workers; competition staff with ID passes. No others will be allowed through either the North or South tunnel (this is for security reasons).
- Temporary high school hash marks (28 steps from sideline to hash) will be provided. NCAA hash marks are also painted onto the Liberty Bowl field; these are 32 steps from sideline to hash and 20 steps apart.
- Small, motorized vehicles may be used to move equipment; however, they MUST remain off the playing surface. Driving any motorized vehicle onto the playing surface will result in an automatic two (2) point penalty due to the damage and expense it will cause. Full-sized cars and trucks are NOT permitted in the stadium! Please idle onto and off the field. We will make sure you have enough time to set up equipment.

## PERFORMANCE

- The Field Coordinator will verify that your band has completed setup and warm-up. Then, your band will be announced as follows:

“AT (time) ON YOUR PROGRAM, THE BANDMASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP IS PLEASED TO PRESENT THE (your school) UNDER THE DIRECTION OF (band directors). DRUM MAJORS (your drum majors), IS YOUR BAND READY?”

Your drum majors will offer a salute. Once the salute has been offered, the public address announcer will say:

“(SCHOOL NAME) HIGH SCHOOL BAND, YOU MAY TAKE THE FIELD FOR COMPETITION.”

### **Your band should begin its performance immediately.**

- After the performance, the announcer will say your band’s name. The band should begin its exit from the field immediately. All equipment must be removed from the field and sidelines quickly. A one (1) point penalty may be assessed for any equipment or debris left behind on the field.
- Your band will exit the field through the North Tunnel. As your band faces the spectators/press box, they will exit to their LEFT. Band members will pass through the tunnel first, followed by equipment. Pit equipment must complete the lap around the field and wait for the next band to enter before exiting the field.

- Drum clicks or cadences are permitted for up to one minute during your band's exit from the field.
- Our field staff will notify you if you are in danger of exceeding your 15 minute time limit. A one (1) point penalty may be assessed if your band goes overtime.

### **After Your Performance**

- Following your performance, you may enter the stadium seating area to watch bands or return to your buses and equipment trucks. Your band members may re-enter the stadium at any time through Gate 2.
- Bands will be seated on the concert side of the stadium. Students and spectators will be permitted to enter the seating area between (and not during) other bands' performances.
- Please remind your students to appreciate other bands' performances courteously!
- Students, directors, and parents will also find the following services available on the Lower Concourse during the contest:
  - Concession Stands
  - Restrooms
  - Souvenirs from Tiger Book Store
  - University of Memphis information tables
  - University of Memphis Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music performances

## **FINALE**

- The 2024 Bandmasters Championship is a single-performance competition.
- After the University of Memphis Band has completed its performance, band directors and drum majors will be asked to line up behind their school banner on the north tunnel ramp. Band leaders may accompany drum majors on the field. Bands will come out of the tunnel to the University of Memphis Drumline cadence. Bands will line up along the front field numbers. We will have contest staff there to help with this process.
- Band directors are asked to stand behind your drum majors/captains on the front sideline during the Finale. When your band receives an award, you can come forward with your students.
- Drum majors and captains should step forward and offer a salute when the band is announced.
- The Liberty Bowl will enforce that no one can come out of the stands and onto the field after the awards ceremony.
- At the completion of the Awards Presentation, we will release the scores and recaps through the Competition Suite.
  - Note that we will also post complete recaps on the contest website, [www.bandmasterschampionship.com](http://www.bandmasterschampionship.com), by Tuesday, November 5.
- Videos of all performances (subject to band director approval) will be available on the contest website as soon as we get them from the video crew.

## ORDER OF AWARDS

Each band will be brought forward once for “extended recognition.” Bands will be presented in the following order:

**Participation Awards:** Commemorative Plaques are presented to any bands not receiving a Superior (I) or Excellent (II) rating, with a score of 59.9 or less and all bands that are performing in the Open Division.

**Excellent Awards:** Commemorative Plaques are presented to all bands receiving an Excellent (II) rating, with a score of 60.0 through 74.9.

**Superior Awards:** Trophies will be presented to all bands receiving a Superior (I) rating, with a score of 75.0 or greater.

**Placement Awards:** Trophies will be presented to bands placing 4th-8th overall

**Honorable Mention:** A trophy will be presented to the 3rd Place band overall.

**Reserve Grand Champion:** A trophy will be presented to the 2nd Place band overall.

**2024 Bandmasters Grand Champion Sills Cup:** A trophy will be presented to the 1st Place band overall.

As bands come forward, they will also be presented with the following awards when applicable:

### **Caption Awards (One for each Classification)**

- Outstanding Color Guard
- Outstanding Percussion
- Outstanding Visual Performance
- Outstanding Music Performance
- Outstanding General Effect

### **Class Champion Awards**

Trophies will be presented to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place bands in each classification. A custom Championship Flag will be presented to each Class Champion. These awards and the respective bands’ rating/placement trophies will be presented.

## SPECTATOR INFORMATION

- Spectator parking is located off Southern Ave. around the Mid-South Colosseum. Entry into that lot is from Access 11. Please see the attached map for more information. The handicapped lot is off of Hollywood at Access 4. The entrance will be marked with a sign, and staff will be available to provide information. Spectator parking is free.

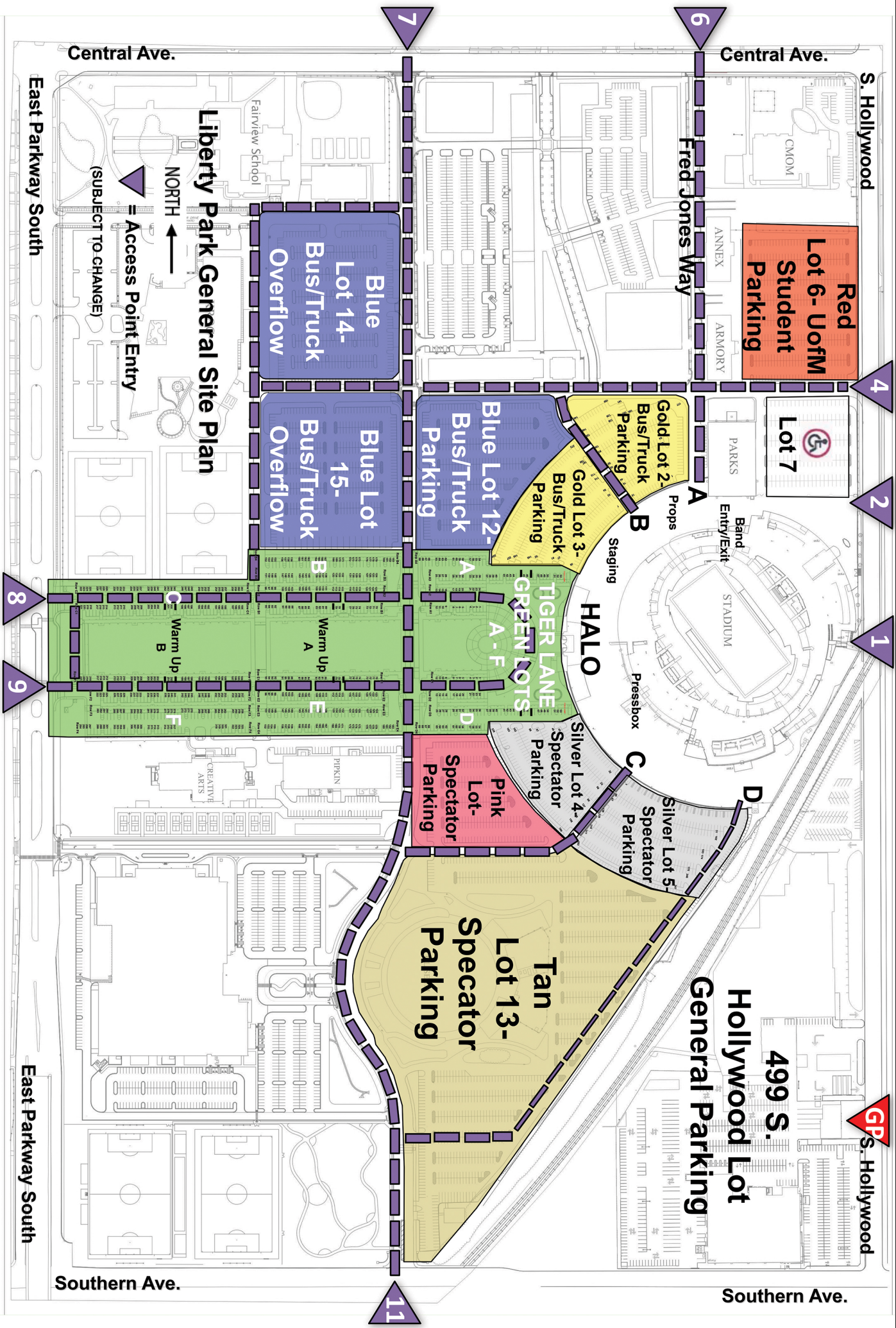


Parents will not be able to park with the buses or equipment trucks! Please remind your parents of this.

- Early bird tickets may be purchased online at [Memphis.edu/bandmasters](https://www.Memphis.edu/bandmasters) for \$20 (+fees) until October 18, 2024.
- Spectators may purchase tickets at the stadium ticket booth next to Gate 4. Ticket prices are \$25 in-person for ages six and up on the event day. Tickets are digital and available for purchase now and are at a discount until 10/18. Get tickets by going to Bandmasters Tickets
- The event Information Center is located at the ticket booth (Gate 4). Spectators may go there for assistance or seek help from any of our contest staff.
- Seating will be located on the stadium's East Side, beneath the press box.
- Spectators will be asked not to enter the stadium seating area while a band performs.
- We ask spectators and students to assist us by placing trash in waste receptacles on their way out of the Liberty Bowl.
- We cannot issue ticket refunds if the contest is delayed or canceled due to weather conditions.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

- The competition will be stopped in severe weather (lightning, high winds or any other condition dangerous to the students and/or spectators). Performances will resume once the threat of severe weather has passed.
- If we have a stoppage, we will meet with all directors who have not performed and create a revised schedule.
- Due to various fixed costs incurred by the event (mainly judges and their expenses), we cannot refund entry fees if the contest is canceled or stopped due to inclement weather conditions.
- If your band cannot perform due to weather cancellation, we will credit your entry fees toward the 2025 Bandmasters Championship.



Central Ave.

Central Ave.

S. Hollywood

East Parkway South

### Liberty Park General Site Plan

NORTH →

▲ = Access Point Entry  
(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Fred Jones Way

**Red**  
Lot 6 - UofM  
Student  
Parking

Lot 7  
PARKS

**Blue**  
Lot 14 -  
Bus/Truck  
Overflow

**Blue** Lot  
15 -  
Bus/Truck  
Overflow

**Blue** Lot 12 -  
Bus/Truck  
Parking

**Gold** Lot 2 -  
Bus/Truck  
Parking

**Gold** Lot 3 -  
Bus/Truck  
Parking

**Gold** Lot 2 -  
Bus/Truck  
Parking

Band  
Entry/Exit

STADIUM

4

2

1

8

9

7

6

Warm Up  
A

Warm Up  
B

**TIGER LANE**  
**GREEN LOTS**  
A - F

**HALO**

**Pink**  
Lot -  
Spectator  
Parking

**Silver** Lot 4 -  
Spectator  
Parking

**Silver** Lot 5 -  
Spectator  
Parking

**Tan**  
Lot 13 -  
Spectator  
Parking

**499 S.**  
**Hollywood Lot**  
**General Parking**

**GP** S. Hollywood

Southern Ave.

Southern Ave.

11

East Parkway South