

COLTS

YOUTH ORGANIZATION

We use music & excellence to teach each other about success in life.

December 5, 2017

Dear Colts Family,

We recently completed our first audition weekend for the 2018 Colts in Dubuque, Iowa. The turnout was amazing and many of the students will be receiving their membership contracts just in time to brighten their holidays. Many others have returned home to dig in, hone their skills, and come back later in the month to show that they will not be denied of their place among the 150 members of the 2018 Colts Drum & Bugle Corps.

This determination and perseverance is the first of many lessons that will begin to define their character not only as a performer, but in all they choose to do in life. The enclosed brochure serves as a reminder of what it is we *really* do at the Colts.

Of course, we learn to march, play, and spin with the best of them — but the essence of what we do goes far beyond the football field. The leadership skills and character development that come from being a member of the Colts will transcend well into one's professional career. This is what we do....and this is why we need your help to continue this important mission.

Maintaining and growing our programs takes a lot of resources and we hope that you'll consider making a tax-deductible, year-end contribution to the Colts. Every gift is deeply appreciated — be it \$5 or \$5,000. Some of the ways you can contribute:

- ▲ Use the enclosed envelope to mail a gift, or go to **www.colts.org** and follow the DONATE link to make a donation online.
- ▲ Join the growing circle of friends in the **Colts Monthly Giving** program by filling out the information on the enclosed envelope. (*Remember to select a shirt size for your exclusive Thank You gift.*)
- ▲ Donations can be made in many ways such as a gift of appreciated stocks. If you are over 70 ½ consider gifting your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) through the Qualified Charitable Distribution rule (QCD). We encourage you to speak with your financial advisor to see if this is a good option for your year-end tax planning.

Every dollar we receive is invested in the teaching and development of the students at the Colts Youth Organization. **YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!**

Thank you for your support!

Warmest holiday wishes,



Jeff MacFarlane
Executive Director
jeff@colts.org

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Performers.

PERFORMING IN HIS FIRST YEAR with the Colts front ensemble, **Thomas Savegnago** brings energy to his performance of the 2017 program, "Both Sides Now."

2018 Drum Corps International Summer Schedule

▲ COLTS ● COLT CADETS



Friday 6/22/18 ▲● Colts Summer Premiere Dubuque, Iowa

Saturday 6/23/18 ▲●
Whitewater, Wisconsin

Sunday 6/24/18 ▲●
Michigan City, Indiana

Tuesday 6/26/18 ▲
Dublin, Ohio

Friday 6/29/18 ▲
Muncie, Indiana

Saturday 6/30/18 ▲●
Lisle, Illinois

Sunday 7/1/18 ▲
La Crosse, Wisconsin

Monday 7/2/18 ▲●
Mankato, Minnesota

Tuesday 7/3/18 ●
Cedarburg, Wisconsin

Wednesday 7/4/18 ▲●
Parades
Chicago Suburbs

Thursday 7/5/18 ▲
Wausau, Wisconsin

Friday 7/6/18 ▲
Rockford, Illinois

Saturday 7/7/18 ▲●
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Sunday 7/8/18 ▲●
Rochester, Minnesota

Tuesday 7/10/18 ▲●
Sioux City, Iowa

Wednesday 7/11/18 ▲● Celebration In Brass Johnston, Iowa

Friday 7/13/18 ▲● Music On The March Dubuque, Iowa

Saturday 7/14/18 ▲
DeKalb, Illinois

Sunday 7/15/18 ▲●
St. Louis, Missouri

Monday 7/16/18 ▲● Brass Impact Olathe, Kansas

Thursday 7/19/18 ▲
Denton, Texas

Saturday 7/21/18 ▲
San Antonio, Texas

Monday 7/23/18 ▲
Lafayette, Louisiana

Wednesday 7/25/18 ▲
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Friday 7/27/18 ▲
Dothan, Alabama

Saturday 7/28/18 ▲
Atlanta, Georgia

Sunday 7/29/18 ●
Oskaloosa, Iowa

Monday 7/30/18 ▲
Charleston, West Virginia

Tuesday 7/31/18 ▲
Annapolis, Maryland

Tues. 7/31/18 ●
Farmington, Minnesota

Wednesday 8/1/18 ●
Waukesha, Wisconsin

Friday 8/3/18 ▲
Allentown, Pennsylvania

Friday 8/3/18 ● Tournament Of Drums Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Saturday 8/4/18 ●
Metamora, Illinois

Sunday 8/5/18 ▲
Buffalo, New York

Monday 8/6/18 ▲
Erie, Pennsylvania

Monday 8/6/18 ●
DCI Open Class Prelims

Tuesday 8/8/18 ●
DCI Open Class Finals

8/10/18 ▲●
DCI World Class Prelims

8/11/18 ▲
DCI World Class Semifinals

8/12/18 ▲
DCI World Class Finals



Leaders

FOLLOWING HIS AGE OUT in 2014, and receiving his degree from the University of Kentucky, **Jason Schubert** joined the Colts full time and now serves as our Director of Operations & Media. *"When I came to the Colts, I could not have imagined how the organization would shape my life. It's incredible to watch the growth of students each year and wonder where the activity will lead them."*



Drum corps has a profound impact on the lives of those who participate. Beyond the growth in each member's performance abilities, the Colts provide students an opportunity to learn lessons that affect their approach to school, dedication to their career, and the respect they show others as they journey through life. **This is what we do. And this is why we need your help** to continue making the drum corps experience accessible for those who will define our future.

RETURNING FOR HIS THIRD SEASON as Program Coordinator with the Colts, **Howard Weinstein** reflects on the student experience. *"One of the more gratifying aspects for me as head of the leadership curriculum is watching the growth of a student from having never marched drum corps to returning the next season and becoming a leader among their peers."*





THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A MEMBER TRIANGLE cannot be underestimated, especially when your first summer was more than you had ever imagined. For **Jude Biver**, his perseverance earned him the Most Improved Brass award from his fellow Colt Cadets. *"Wow! I have a hard time even telling my friends what drum corps meant to me last summer. I can't wait to do it again. How many years until I age out?"*

Our Future.

PERFORMERS. LEADERS. OUR FUTURE. This is the foundation of our existence as a drum corps. We march. We entertain. We work



long days to perfect our skills. And we learn life lessons that last far beyond our time on the field.

The Colts have been providing the drum corps experience to generations of students beginning in 1963 as the Junior Dukes. As we begin to celebrate the 55th anniversary of our founding, we offer appreciation to all who paved the way and those who continue to offer their support of our educational mission.

During this season of giving and receiving, we pledge to give you our best effort, and in return **WE ASK THAT YOU CONSIDER A GIFT TO THE COLTS** to help us remain strong going into 2018. We also hope that you find time next summer to come and see the return on your investment — an investment not only in the organization but also in our shared future as these students are the leaders of tomorrow.

A recent survey of Colts members revealed that 96% of our students are in college or plan to go on to receive a bachelor's degree, 80% have a GPA (grade point average) of 3.0



or better, 50% are earning a GPA of 3.5 or better, and an impressive 10% have a GPA of 4.0 or better. This is a reflection of the importance of our work, and this is why the Colts must continue to provide this life-changing opportunity for decades to come.

Please make your **tax-deductible contribution to the Colts** in the envelope provided, or go online to **colts.org** to make a gift through the Colts Mall. Your generosity supports our mission, and serves young people who desire high levels of challenge, achievement and success.

