

The Fairfield High School Marching Band has been hosting a drum and bugle corps competition for more than 20 years. The Queen City Classic, as it was called in the beginning, was held at Galbraeth Field, located just north of King's Island. In 1996 the drum corps show was moved to the University of Cincinnati's Nippert Stadium and the name of the event was officially changed to, "The SUMMER MUSIC GAMES in Cincinnati" to align with the Drum Corps International summer tour theme. In 2000, a construction project at Nippert Stadium forced us to move the event.

Many would think the choice to move the drum and bugle corps show to Fairfield Stadium would be obvious. But, there were several issues to contend with including, spectator parking, corps parking, warm-up space, restrooms, concessions, bleachers and many more. With a lot of creative thinking and the cooperation with Fairfield City's Police, Fire and Street Departments and the Fairfield City School Staff, we were able to move the event to Fairfield Stadium where it remains today.

The **spectator parking** issue was managed by having people park at the High School at 8800 Holden Blvd. and shuttling them to and from the stadium. This is not an ideal solution, especially when dealing with inclement weather. You can't simply tell folks to clear the bleachers and return to their cars. Although spectators are not charged for parking, many tell us that the inconvenience is not worth it.

The **corps vehicles parking** requires space for more than 14 tractor trailers, 30 motor coaches and several other support vehicles. This is accommodated by repositioning all of the Fairfield City School busses and maintenance vehicles and parking the corps vehicles in the Bus Compound.

We have yet to solve the issue of **warm-up space**. Each corps warms up before their performance. Some will find room in the Bus Compound while others walk down the street to find space. As a "good neighbor," we contact the local businesses and let them know about the drum corps show. It is critical that the sound from the warm-up area not reach the stadium and interfere with the corps performing.

The **restrooms** continue to be an issue even with Port-a-Lets being brought in for the event. The permanent restrooms are not handicap accessible.

We found our **concessions stands** were not adequate to serve nearly 4,000 fans and more than 1,200 drum corps members. Temporary concession stands are set-up on the north end of the stadium to supplement the existing stands. Not having potable water available in the Tempo Club concession stand is a major issue. As is the drain going to a dry well.

All seats on the home side **bleachers** are reserved for the drum corps show. It wasn't until we marked each seat using a standard 18" width, that we knew we could seat 3,859 people. Drum Corps International stipulates in their contract that ADA approved facilities should be used to host drum corps events if at all possible. Unfortunately, we do not have any handicap seating. Just getting people confined to wheel chairs into our existing stadium is a challenge. We place those requiring special seating on the track just in front of the bleachers. For the most part, they watch the drum corps show looking through the chain link fence from a vantage point of "on the ground." We had a young child fall through the bleachers from about five rows up a few years ago. Fortunately he was not hurt, but made us realize how poorly designed our home side bleachers are. There are people that cannot attend the drum corps show or any event hosted at the existing Fairfield Stadium because it is **not ADA compliant**.

As I mentioned before, the SUMMER MUSIC GAMES in Cincinnati could not be held at Fairfield Stadium without the support of the City of Fairfield and Fairfield City Schools. We are recognized by Drum Corps International for hosting one of the best run shows despite the challenges we face in a 50 year old venue. Our drum corps show is an opportunity to showcase our students, school and community.

The positive financial impact to the community has been tremendous with people from more than 39 states attending. Yet, 75% of those in attendance drive less than 30 miles making this a "community event" and a perfect demographic for area businesses to support. Local hotels have been sold out and restaurants filled as a result of the SUMMER MUSIC GAMES in Cincinnati. Grocery stores and laundromats have been frequented by the drum corps while staying in Fairfield. The Fairfield High School Marching Band has raised more than \$190K to support education in the Tri-State area since 1996. And, an additional \$240K to support music education and the drum and bugle corps activity nationwide.

The purpose of this letter is not to dwell on the drum corps show itself, but use it as an example of the types of events that can be hosted at Fairfield's new stadium. A new stadium, built on the north side of the High School at 8800 Holden Blvd. would be a facility that would serve the students and the community for many years. If designed properly, this facility would be a showcase for sports and music events alike. This site is most suitable for a new stadium since the infrastructure is already in place (water, electric, sewer, parking, etc.).

We all need to work together starting today and move forward with the design, funding and construction of a new stadium.

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SUMMER MUSIC GAMES in Cincinnati

A Drum Corps International Tour Event hosted by the Fairfield High School Marching Band
Wednesday, July 2, 2008
Fairfield Stadium, Fairfield, Ohio
Gates open at 5:30 PM, competition starts at 7:00 PM
For tickets, call 858-DRUM or visit <http://summermusicgamesincincinnati.org>

The line-up of World Class drum and bugle corps includes:

- **The Cavaliers** from Rosemont, IL <http://www.cavaliers.org>
- **Bluecoats** from Canton, OH <http://www.bluecoats.com>
- **Blue Knights** from Denver CO <http://www.bknights.org>
- **Spirit** from Jacksonville, AL <http://www.spiritdrumcorps.org>
- **Blue Stars** from Lacrosse, WI <http://www.bluestars.org>
- **Memphis Sound** from Memphis, TN <http://www.memphisdrumcorps.org>