

# Avondale Brass Band Expectations

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All of us have joined Avondale Brass Band because we enjoy the experience of performing music together. It is important that we foster that enjoyment by observing certain requirements as members of the group. We always need to be mindful of both individuals and the group as a whole as well as the expectations of the Band Master. It is with these thoughts in mind that the committee has followed the suggestions of several band members in formulating the following guidelines.

## 1 During practices

### 1.1 Punctuality

Band practice is scheduled to start at 7pm on Wednesday evenings. It is not fair to those who do arrive on time to have to wait for others who arrive late. We should plan to arrive by 6:50pm to get our music, instrument etc. ready to start on time. If you are unable to attend or arrive on time, it is courteous to inform the Band Master or a committee member beforehand. If you know in advance of future absences, indicate dates on the blackboard in the band room.

### 1.2 Warming up

Avoid playing any loud exercises when warming up in the band hall before practice. Warm air is all that is needed to prepare your instrument. If you need to prepare your embouchure then a short, quiet rendition beforehand in an adjoining room should be sufficient. Any tuning checks should be done before practice, but if you need to adjust your tuning during practice, first ask the conductor.

### 1.3 Following the conductor

We should be following the conductor closely to maintain a uniform tempo and volume. When he stops conducting, we should stop with him and take notice of the reason for the break. Talking or continuing to play while the conductor is addressing the band is impolite and is considered inappropriate behaviour.

### 1.4 New music

If a new piece of music is distributed, take extra copies for any absent members and insert in their folders.

## 2 During Performances

Guidelines for practices will obviously also apply at performances. When playing before an audience we need to be aware of how we look as well as how we sound.

### 2.1 Uniform

We show our loyalty to the group by wearing the full uniform: a white short or long sleeved shirt with epaulettes, black tie, black trousers, black socks and shoes and the maroon band coat. Decisions on specific items will be made on the day by the band sergeant in consultation with at least one other committee member. If coats are not needed, then they should be placed somewhere out of sight, not just on the back of the chair. Uniform black hats should be worn in outdoor performances.

### 2.2 Water removal

The maroon towels should be used to empty water with a minimum of noise from instruments. The listeners will then not worry about their carpets and will be able to better appreciate our music.

## **2.3 Cases**

Instrument cases should be left out of sight in some appropriate place. There is generally a back room where they can be left.

## **2.4 Think ahead**

During performances be prepared for the next piece of music ahead of time. As soon as the band finishes playing an item, find the music for the next one. Don't wait until the band is ready to play.

## **3 Care of Band Instruments**

It is expected that members will maintain band-owned instruments in good condition, cleaning the instrument inside and out and lubricating the slides and valves regularly.