

2024 James D. Ployhar Honor Band October 24-25, 2024



Be a part of the 21st annual Ployhar Honor Band! This high school and middle school festival celebrates the accomplishments and contributions of the late James D. Ployhar, an alumnus of Valley City State who made a huge impact on the band world through his compositions, arrangements, and service. We hope you will encourage participating in this historic occasion on our beautiful campus!

Live auditions for the 2024 Ployhar event will be conducted during September at a limited number of sites. If you are a music instructor and are interested in having students audition live at your school, or for any questions about the festival, please contact Prof. Heide (jerrold.heide@vcsu.edu, 701-845-7375).

All auditions should be emailed to jerrold.heide@vcsu.edu by September 30. Details for completing the audition process can be found on the next page of this document.

2024 Ployhar Honor Band Schedule-at-a-Glance

Thursday, October 24

- 12:30 p.m. - Registration
- 1:00 p.m. - Rehearsals begin
- 7:00 p.m. - Rehearsals conclude for Day 1

Friday, October 25

- 9:00 a.m. - Rehearsals resume for Day 2
- 7:00 p.m. - Concert in the Larry J. Robinson Center for the Arts Performance Hall

JAMES D. PLOYHAR HONOR BAND AUDITION INFORMATION

Recording Format

Each student's audition should be recorded on an individual track and submitted as an mp3 file. Files should be labeled with the name of the student, the instrument, and the high school they attend. Completed files can be either emailed directly or saved to your preferred cloud storage (Google Drive, Dropbox, etc.) and a link sent to jerrold.heide@vcsu.edu.

Entry Form

Along with completing the audition recording either the student or director must fill out the required Google Form for everyone who auditions. The information collected will be confidential. The entry form link is [2024 Ployhar Honor Band Entry Form](#). You may also access the entry form via this QR code:



Audition recording and Google Entry Form must be received by September 30.

Audition requirements

Student recordings/live auditions are recommended to include the following:

Woodwind and Brass:

- Play a major scale and a chromatic scale, 2-octaves or as far as student is capable.
- Play a 1-minute excerpt displaying appropriate musical technique, style, phrasing, articulation, etc. A selection from band literature may be appropriate if it displays your best sound and technique.

Percussion:

- Play a 1-minute excerpt displaying appropriate musical technique, style, phrasing, articulation, etc. A selection from band literature may be appropriate if it displays your best sound and technique.
- Demonstrate one or more of the following.
 - Snare drum: long Roll (open to close to open), alternating flams, drags
 - Mallet: Play B-flat and E-flat major scales in two octaves (ascending and descending)
 - Timpani: Short etude or excerpt from the timpani part of a band piece.

For Accepted Students

If the student is selected for the festival, a \$20 participation fee will be required – paid by cash, check or money order – for each student chosen for the festival. Checks should be made out to VCSU Music and mailed in or presented by the high school instrumental director or student at the registration desk at the opening of the festival. Ployhar Festival T-shirts are included in the registration cost. Please indicate the appropriate size on the Google Form. T-shirts must be pre-ordered at the time of your audition. Extra T-shirts will not be available for purchase at the event.

Ployhar Audition Guidelines for First-Time Auditions

We know many students are comfortable completing an audition, but what if this is your first one? What if you don't know what to expect? Auditions can seem intimidating if you don't know what to expect. To help you out, we've put together some questions and comments we usually get so everyone can understand what is expected to audition for the Ployhar Band Festival.

How does an audition work?

For a recorded audition, your band director or someone else will record you playing your music alone in a quiet room. You then need to email the files or a link to the files to Mr. Heide, the band director at VCSU. There is a sheet that explains how to do this that will be sent to your band director in early September.

What should I play for my audition?

An audition should show your best playing, so you should play what makes you sound best. Most auditions we get include these things:

1) A major scale, whichever one you sound best at and in whatever length/format you are comfortable.

*If you don't usually do these in band, just mention that to your recorder before you start.

2) A piece of music that shows your best playing (District solo, All-State Music, etc.)

*If you've never done a solo and/or don't have one, just use a piece of music from band class.

But I don't think what I can do is good enough...

Let us be the judge of that. Contrary to what you may believe, we WANT you to make the festival. If auditions are turned down, it is usually only because there are too many of a certain instrument to make the band sound right.

Contact Info

For questions, please use the contact information below:

Mr. Jerrold Heide
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101 College St. SE
Valley City, ND 58072
jerrold.heide@vcsu.edu
Call (701)845-7375
Text (701)404-8416