

## **THE MODERN MARCHING BAND**

Marching Band is not the same as it was when parents or band directors were in high school. Many of us remember the colorguard actually guarding the American flag. As bands have become more musically advanced many of the past traditions have fallen by the way. Some of that is great, some a bit disappointing.

However if marching band now is about the integration of color, movement, music, and visual effect, many in our audience would appreciate some insight. Here are a few tidbits.....

Band performances are now driven by effect and impact. Most shows try to have some type of impact every 30-40 seconds. It is tough to do. Hopefully the audience will respond to some of those highlights.

- if the band stops and plays a powerful chord or sequence, hopefully the crowd will respond.
- if the guard throws or tosses a piece of equipment, crowd appreciation
- if there is a musical soloist or section feature, again crowd response.
- if a new silk (flag) is introduced or a cool dance or body movement is added, wild appreciation needed.
- when the drum majors salute at the beginning or end, reaction wanted.
- when the band is finished, enthusiastic appreciation for a job well done.

Hopefully the audience will react and respond to the performance while preparing to see or hear the next effect.