



## **Fact Sheet The Colts Drum and Bugle Corps and the Colts Youth Organization**

The Colts Drum and Bugle Corps has submitted an application to participate in the 2009 Inaugural Parade. We appreciate any assistance you can provide, specifically through a letter of support to the Presidential Inaugural Committee. This would be the first Inaugural Parade appearance for the Colts.

**What is a drum corps?** Think of a really, really good marching band with 80 brass players, 30 percussion players, and a 40-member color guard. Members range in age from 16 to 22.

**Who are we?** The Colts Drum and Bugle Corps is sponsored by the Colts Youth Organization, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization uses music programs to teach leadership and life skills to young people.

**What else do we do?** In addition to the Colts Drum and Bugle Corps we sponsor four more musical programs for young people:

- The Colt Cadets, a drum corps for young people ages 10-17;
- Vocal Fusion - a vocal performance ensemble for youth in grades 3 through 8;
- The Colts Summer Band for students in grades 4-8 in Dubuque and northeast Iowa; and
- PanrhythmiX – a steel drum ensemble formed in partnership with the Dubuque School District to provide opportunities for at-risk young people in grades 3-6.

We are *Partners in Education* with the Dubuque School District and provide services and equipment with an annual value of over \$40,000 in support of local music programs.

**Who participates in our programs?** Approximately 375 young people, ages 8 through 22 are currently members of Colts organization programs.

**Where are they from?** Two-thirds of the young people in our programs are from the Dubuque area with another twenty percent from towns across Iowa. In recent seasons the Colts have had members from Ames, Ankeny, Asbury, Cedar Rapids, Charles City, Davenport, Decorah, Des Moines, Dubuque, Dyersville, Iowa City, Kirkville, Lenox, Mason City, Newton, Oskaloosa, Polk City, Sioux City, Urbandale, Waterloo and West Des Moines.

### **Contact for more Information:**

Greg Orwoll, Executive Director, 1101 Central, Dubuque, IA 52004-0515  
563-582-4872 (office) 563-564-9156 (cell) [gorwoll@colts.org](mailto:gorwoll@colts.org)  
Website: [www.colts.org](http://www.colts.org)

*The next two pages provide supplemental information that has been submitted as part of our Inaugural Parade application.*

## **Supplemental Narrative – Inaugural Parade Participant Application Colts Drum and Bugle Corps, Dubuque, Iowa**

### **What makes the Colts distinct from other groups**

The Colts are one of the nation's top drum and bugle corps. Our motto is "*We use music and excellence to teach each other about success in life.*" We are more than a marching ensemble and are committed to developing leadership and life skills in young men and women.

The highly coveted positions in the Colts Drum and Bugle Corps are selected each fall and winter based on an intensive audition process that continues with monthly rehearsal weekends through the spring and culminates in a 10-week national tour each summer. This demanding activity requires an exceptional degree of dedication from members, each of whom makes a significant personal commitment to participate.

The Colts are sponsored by the Colts Youth Organization, a non-profit organization that also sponsors the Colt Cadets (a competitive drum corps for young peoples ages 10-17); steel drum and summer band programs for at-risk youth; and a youth choir. We are also business partners with a local elementary school. The American Legion Post in Dubuque, Iowa founded the Corps in 1963.

### **Description of the Colts uniforms**

**Musicians:** The front of the asymmetrical V-cut hem jacket is red with 3 horizontal white triangles (slashes) and a contrasting dark red horizontal stripe. Red sleeves and a plain black back complete the top. The black fitted pants and black shoes are separate from the top. Red gauntlets with 2 silver buttons at the wrist end with black gloves. A red shako with an inverse silver triangle near the top is topped by a 14 inch red plume. Drum major uniforms are all black except for horizontal white slashes.

**Color guard:** Complementary black and white uniforms, adapted for January weather. (see video)

### **Any previous, significant performances or awards such as marching festivals**

The Colts spend each summer competing against the other top-ranked drum corps across the country. We have been ranked among the Top 15 nationally in each of the last four years, including a 10th place finish in the Drum Corps International 2007 World Championships and seven appearances in DCI finals in the last 15 years. Iowa Governor Chet Culver declared the Colts "Iowa's Ambassadors of Music" in 2007.

### **Audience interaction that the group may facilitate**

The Colts perform field shows with extremely complicated marching drill and dance choreography. For the Inaugural Parade we would perform a limited parade drill while maintaining a steady parade cadence. Our video submission shows parade marching and an excerpt from our 2008 field show which would form the basis for a simplified parade drill. Color guard members will perform a choreographed flag drill. During our annual Memorial Day and Independence Day parade appearances we receive sustained applause and cheering.

### **Musical uniqueness of our group**

The Colts feature complex brass harmonies with trumpet, mellophone, baritone/euphonium and contrabass/tuba together with a full marching percussion section. Intense training and highly disciplined marching provide a unique aural and visual effect unknown to most viewers.

### **Selection we propose to play while marching in review past the presidential reviewing stand**

"Seventy-Six Trombones" from Meredith Wilson's "The Music Man" set in the fictional location of River City, Iowa, honoring both President-Elect Obama's place in history and our roots in Iowa.

## Colts Drum and Bugle Corps 2007 Memorial Day Parade in Dubuque



Iowa governor Chet Carver presents Colts Executive Director Greg Orwoll and Youth Programs Director Vicki Schafer with a certificate naming the Colts "Iowa's Ambassadors of Music."