



# YAMAHA

Articles for Music Educators



## Is It Time for a Drumline at Your School?

by **Greg Way**

Marching Arts Canada Moderator

Marching bands and drumlines have been around for years, and recently we have seen an amazing expansion of this activity in Canada.

A drumline is a group of percussionists who play a variety of percussion instruments. A drumline may be an incorporated section of a marching band but can also operate independently. Indoor percussion ensembles serve as the most common outlet for stand-alone drumline performance.

Most drumlines can be divided into two sections: the "battery" and the "front ensemble" (or "pit" or "front line"). However, the term drumline is frequently used to refer to just the battery. Dividing the battery further are the sub-sections: snare drums, tenors, bass drums, and cymbals.

There are many questions to consider when contemplating the creation of a drum line.

- What is a drum line?
- How much time does it take?
- How will the students benefit?
- Where do I get help on instruction?
- What about equipment? What do I need?
- How much does it cost?
- Where and how do I start?

Future articles will address these issues. Stay tuned.

Marching Arts Canada was formed in the fall of 2006 and is a national organization dedicated to promoting active participation in marching arts activities as well as the development of marching arts programs in schools and communities throughout Canada.

Our website is being developed and you will be able to access more information at:

[www.marchingartscanada.ca](http://www.marchingartscanada.ca)

Or you can contact me at [info@marchingartscanada.ca](mailto:info@marchingartscanada.ca)

---