

**SCRIPT**

**OPTIONAL INTRODUCTION**: (Industry Spokesperson)

Good Evening/Afternoon,

Welcome to (name of school)’s VIRTUAL FIRST PERFORMANCE NATIONAL DAY OF CELEBRATION. I’m (name) representing (name of business). I appreciate (director) inviting me to make a few comments about this exciting event! We have found that young people are motivated to learn to play a musical instrument for a number of reasons but many times, it’s because it just looks like fun—and it is!

We are pleased to be a part of this FIRST PERFORMANCE NATIONAL DAY OF CELEBRATION and are here representing the Music Achievement Council, a 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization which believes in the important and value of music education in our schools. Your child will not only have an experience that will lead to a path of enjoyable, life-long music-making, but will also accumulate many great memories that will last for a lifetime.

I am personally proud to support the work of the Music Achievement Council and this FIRST PERFORMANCE program to keep music in our schools and communities so that your children will be able to take advantage of the many benefits that will come along inherently as a direct result of their active music-making.

As a prelude to this evening’s virtual performance, the (band, orchestra, strings, et.al.) will now play along with composer Dr. Charlie Menghini.

**ANNOUNCER’S SCRIPT**: (Principal, Supervisor, Booster Parent, HS Band or Orchestra Director)

Thank you, and welcome to all who are joining us for this special performance. It doesn’t matter if you are a mom, dad, brothers, sister, grandma, grandpa, aunt, uncle, friend or neighbor, one thing is for certain YOU are in for a very special treat. This performance by an up and coming, talented young musicians is something you will remember for years to come.

All of us from the Music Achievement Council, as well as your school and school band director, are thrilled to present young musicians from around the world in this year’s FIRST PERFORMANCE NATIONAL DAY OF CELEBRATION—a day that has been designated for recognizing the achievements of beginning music students! We know that you are going to enjoy listening to the great progress that has been made since these artists began playing on their instrument. And now, it gives me great pleasure to kick off our event by introducing our conductor, Dr. Charlie Menghini, who is president emeritus of VanderCook College of Music in Chicago and a nationally-known music educator and conductor., Dr. Menghini.

**CHARLIE:**

**Thanks Marcia!**

We know that not every child is fortunate enough to have the opportunity to play a musical instrument through an in-school music program but the fact that these musicians are joining for this special performance means that your school values music education and understand that programs like these, in addition to teaching the art of music, also teach the skills needed for students to succeed throughout their entire school career and throughout their entire life. Playing an instrument takes physical coordination and mental concentration. It teaches young people to work together for a common goal…and above all, it is fun. Playing in band with your friends is fun. (…and it also takes regular practice time at home.) So, any support you off them will make all the difference in the world.

**Now, I’m going to get ready to start conducting and I am going to send this back to Marcia Neel so she can introduce our first selection.**

**MARCIA:**

After these students joined the band and received their instrument, they began their music study with their professional band teacher. The first thing they learned to do was assemble their instrument. Then it was time to make their first sound. Starting on line one of their band lesson book, their teacher showed them the proper way to hold the instrument, to form their embouchure or hold their sticks, and instructed them to play their first sound. This sound was a long tone sound as it is important for musicians to always play with a good musical sound. Dr. Menghini, please begin the performance.

**CHARLIE:**

Okay students. Let’s make sure we are sitting up properly in our chairs and are holding our instrument and sticks correctly. We will breathe together and then I want you to play your first sound and hold it for as long as you can make a good tone. Remember, the key here is to make a really good sound.

Ready. One, two, three, BREATHE….(play).

**MARCIA/Band Director:**

Wow, that was great…and imagine, that was their first sound.

Well, with continued study, these students also learned about music notation and also about the importance of rhythm in music. Soon they were counting and playing and building up their skill and endurance. Now they are able to play with other musicians in the class and are on their way to beginning their experience as a member of the school band. Let’s listen to what that playing with good tone and rhythm sounds like.

**CHARLIE:**

We are going to play, “The Half Counts” and this is a very popular line in the book as it uses the first five notes they have learned, it introduces playing in rhythm, and it uses quarter notes, half notes and rests. This is a pretty advanced piece of music, but I know you are going to do a great job!

Ready. One, two, three, BREATHE….(play).

**MARCIA/Band Director:**

Super job musicians. Yes, the progress these young musicians make is really amazing. Their band directors work hard to plan instruction and to keep the students challenged while making band fun.

And one of the most fun things to play in band are marches and right now, our performance will feature the first march these students get to perform called “March Steps.” Dr. Menghini

**CHARLIE:**

Okay, let remember…good posture and hand position as we play “March Steps.”

Ready. One, two, three, BREATHE….(play).

**MARCIA/Band Director:**

Great job!

You know, band teaches children more than just playing an instrument, it teaches students about music. We have already talked a little bit about the importance of tone and rhythm, or the technical aspects of learning about how music is composed. We call that music theory. We also teach students about music history and the many great composers from around the world who have helped make music so enjoyable.

As these students continued to rehearse, they soon were playing some “real music.” One of their first pieces they got to play is a famous song that is associated with the composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. We call it “A Mozart Melody” but I am sure you know it by another, more popular name. Let’s see if you can name this piece that we will perform next. Dr. Menghini, let’s hear “A Mozart Melody.”

**CHARLIE:**

Alright, “A Mozart Melody.”

Everybody ready? One, two, three, BREATHE….(play).

**MARCIA/Band Director:**

Well, how did you do? Did you recognize that melody? If you said “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” you are correct. Although the piece is a French Folk Song that was originally written in the 1760’s, Mozart used this song in a set of 12 variations he wrote when he was about 25 years old. That’s why we called it a Mozart Melody.

As you already can imagine, playing this is certainly more interesting than the first note, or a short rhythmic exercise.

Once we begin to play some “real music” we also get to play more and more songs. And every once in a while, teachers select a piece of music the students really love to play…and when they are in band class, they ALWAYS ask if they get to play their favorite piece of music. So, this concert would not be complete if we did not play it for you, right Dr. Menghini?

**CHARLIE:**

Right Mrs. Neal!

Yes, this is a real favorite of our young musicians and it also introduces them to a form of music called the blues….but it is not the blues….it’s really a little rock and roll played in a blues style. Well, I think if I keep trying to explain it, I am confuse more than I probably already did. So, let’s play our favorite piece for the audience. Let’s play “Hard Rock Blues.”

Ready. One, two, three, BREATHE….(play).

**MARCIA/Band Director:**

That was AWESOME. Great job band members. Wow.

Well, as you can tell, these young musicians have come a long way since that first note and each student has worked very hard to prepare this FIRST PERFORMANCE Concert for you in such a short time. Working with young students and watching and hearing them grow and develop in their musical study is one of the most rewarding things a teacher can experience. And as a parent, family member or friend, I hope that YOU share in the pride of hearing and seeing this growth and development in your child too.

This has certainly been an exciting performance for all of us and we’re glad that you were able to help celebrate this important time in their life. AND because this performance is virtual, you can have your young musician perform it again for those family members who were unable to join us today. Getting young musicians to perform is so important for their growth and development. AND support at home is vital if your son or daughter is going to continue to progress at this quick pace so please feel free to visit with your director for ideas on how to support your child’s participation in your school band.

Now, it’s time for the grand finale. Ladies and gentlemen, our feature selection for our First Performance National Day of Celebration, “When the Saints Go Marching In.” Dr. Menghini, if you will, please.

**CHARLIE:**

Before we play our final selection, let me be the first to congratulate these musicians for their incredible performance today. Thank you to each and every one of you…and to our parents, families and friends listening to this performance, thank you for your support. Music is one of the greatest gifts any child can experience and for them…the best is yet to come. So, keep up the great work everyone and now, here’s “When the Saints Go Marching In.”

Ready. One. Two. Three. Four.

**MARCIA/Band Director:**

Ladies and gentlemen, that concludes our First Performance National Day of Celebration, but before you turn us off, I think you should join me in giving all of these musicians a great big round of applause for their hard work and their great performance.

***(Encourage thunderous applause.)***

We hope you are as pleased and gratified as we are with the achievements of these young musicians and we look forward to their continued musical growth.

Please know that none of this would be possible without the support of your local school’s board of education, your school principal and your school’s band director. You can really help keep music alive and well in your school and community. Please take a moment to let these leaders know how much you enjoyed this performance and how much you appreciate having music as an important part of your school’s curriculum.

Thank you again for attending and participating in our FIRST PERFORMANCE NATIONAL DAY OF CELEBRATION and on behalf of Dr. Menghini and all of our friends at the Music Achievement Council, this is Marcia Neel saying, “Keep on playing, kids because we love that band!”