



MEET THE COMPETITORS

2009 Drum Corps International Fact Sheet

The **Bluecoats** organization was founded in 1972 as an outreach program of the Canton, Ohio, Police Boys' Club. The Corps' name was then chosen to serve as a tribute to the city's retired police officers. Making their competitive drum corps debut in 1974, the corps has historically been known for incorporating jazz and swing music into its programs. In 2006, Bluecoats had their highest placement ever, finishing in fourth place at the DCI World Championships.

Founded in 1964, the **Blue Stars** earned the silver medal at the very first Drum Corps International World Championship in 1972, finishing just .65 of a point away from winning the inaugural event. After competing for many years in Divisions II & III, the corps moved back into Division I competition in 2006 for the first time since the mid-1980s.

Boston Crusaders was founded in 1940 and is the third-oldest drum and bugle corps in the United States. Originally named Most Precious Blood Crusaders, the corps has been a Drum Corps International World Championship finalist every year since 1999. For many years, the corps ended each year's show with "Conquest" (from the film, "Captain from Castile") and since has hidden snippets of this signature melody in their musical program.

Crossmen first took the field in 1975 as a successful merger between two smaller suburban Philadelphia corps, the Keystone Regiment and the 507 Hornets. The corps has been a Drum Corps International Division I World Championship finalist 22 times. As an East Coast organization since their founding, the corps made news in 2006 by moving its operations cross-country to San Antonio, Texas.

The **Jersey Surf** celebrates its 19th anniversary in 2009, as it proudly makes its first visit to the Enshrinement Festival show. The 2009 season also marks its debut season as a member of the elite "World Class" in Drum Corps International competition. The Surf's unique format enables its members to participate in an educational and highly competitive environment, while also enabling them to maintain summer employment and attend classes. The corps is a previous silver and bronze medalist in Open Class competition, and has received an unprecedented three consecutive Disney awards for creativity, entertainment and educational experience. The corps is based in the Philadelphia suburban area of Camden County, New Jersey.

The **Mandarins** organization was founded in 1963 as the Ye Wah Drum and Lyre Corps, created for the youth of the Sacramento Chinese community. One year later, the ensemble added bugles and a color guard, and took on its current name in 1967. The corps won the Drum Corps International Division III World Championship seven times, and won the Division II World Championship once before moving to the Division I competition in 2003. Mandarins' programs often focus on Asian influences, most obvious in the ethnic drums used in the front percussion ensemble.

Spirit from JSU first competed in 1977 as Spirit of Atlanta, sponsored by a local television station its first two seasons. Spirit has been long known for highlighting its proud southern heritage with bluesy music, and has been a Drum Corps International Division I finalist many times. In 2002, the corps reorganized as Spirit from Jacksonville State University, becoming one of the first university-affiliated corps and regaining a spot in Drum Corps International's World Championship Finals competition after an 11-year absence.

The **Troopers** are the only competitive junior drum and bugle corps in the state of Wyoming. The corps, founded in 1957 by Casper businessman James E. Jones, represents the state of Wyoming in numerous performances and events during the year. The group has won eleven national titles and has made DCI World Championship finals nine times. The Division I corps is known for their long and storied history, and is often called "America's Corps."

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