



FIRST PERFORMANCE

NATIONAL DAY OF CELEBRATION

Celebrate Your Beginning Students

Presented By
MUSIC ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL
Music Teacher's Professional Development



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Section 1: First Performance—A Demonstration Concert

The First Performance is a short concert designed to show parents what the students have learned within the first six to eight weeks of school, and to build performance confidence in students.

Teachers have told us that this is the most exciting performance each year – both for them and audience. The audience is always large and the sound of applause is infectious. The parents are thrilled to see their children perform and the students discover early on the joy of making music with others.

Get your concert scheduled today and jumpstart your beginning instrumental music program! Band and orchestra arrangements are available at [Music Achievement Council.org](https://www.musicachievementcouncil.org) or you can use any introductory band and orchestra method books.

Section 2: Celebrate Your Students: First Performance National Day of Celebration (FPNDoC)

Developed by the Music Achievement Council, the First Performance National Day of Celebration (FPNDoC) celebrates and recognizes the achievements of beginning instrumental music students. It is annually held during the third week of November, and is designed with little to no extra work for the teacher in mind.

The goals of the program are to:

- Reduce beginner “dropouts”
- Encourage positive communication with parents
- Strengthen administrative support for the program
- Create a memorable experience for students

This scripted event provides parents with the opportunity to hear their child’s progress in a fun and entertaining setting. To help make this celebration successful, MAC created a complete, “turn-key” set of materials that contains sample letters of invitation, press release template and even certificates of advancement for the students. An at-event script is also provided which is a perfect way to engage your school officials in a pro-active and positive experience in front of eager, happy parents.



Official Hashtag #FPCelebration



@FirstGigMAC

[Download All Assets](#)

“This is a day when we celebrate transitioning from beginner to performer.”

George Quinlan, President, Quinlan & Fabish



Section 3: Timeline to Get Started



- Download the Music Achievement Council's First Performance **Band** and **Orchestra** materials or other beginning method books



- **Download here** the First Performance National Day of Celebration materials and set the date for your concert



- Once school starts, **share the news** with your students, parents and local music dealers



- **Practice** for six to eight weeks your beginner ensemble and host your first performance concert



- **Celebrate your students' achievement** on the third week of November along with the Music Achievement Council and their First Performance National Day of Celebration



- **Involve high school students** to participate (ushers, tuning the instruments, send a congratulatory letter to the beginning students post performance, etc.)



- **Celebrate students** with a Certificates of Advancement and recognize the high school students with a Certificate of Music Education Leadership

[Download Here](#)



“I felt like I was the best performer on Earth!”

Beginning Band Student, South Holland School District #151



Section 4: Strategies for Success



Spread the Word: Consider what resources your school offers to spread the word about this concert event through newsletters, online calendars, parent communications and other forms to let your community know about this special event. Local chambers, clubs and others will also be interested in rallying support for your school and students.



Get Social: If your school has a social media presence, consider weekly posts showing students' progress, or have your students talk about why they're excited to be a part of this day. Encourage your students to share the posts, and don't forget to hashtag: **#FPCelebration**. You can tag **@FirstGigMAC** on twitter.



Go on The Record: With the provided press release template, reach out to your local news outlets with the event information. Most news outlets have contact information listed on their website. Your district communications professional would also be able to reach contacts with your news.



Contact the Music Achievement Council: Let us know about your event and how we can help! We're standing by to share and promote your efforts to participate in this day. Email **Sharon Bryant**, sharonb@namm.org.

“There are students who come to school because of orchestra or because of band. That's why they come, that's why they stay motivated and engaged in school.”

Kimberly Meng, Principal, Pacific Beach Middle School