

## Mississippi Valley State University Mean Green Marching Machine



### Press Kit

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## **History of the *Mean Green Marching Machine***

For over 51 years, Mississippi Valley State University has displayed superiority in nurturing and developing men and women into the professional world. The university also boasts excellence in its university band, which is a system that includes both music majors and students from other academic disciplines. The Symphonic Band has displayed the finest in the performance of selected literature. The standard instrumentation has been a programmatic practice, along with innovation additions throughout the years. The Marching Band, known as the *Mean Green Marching Machine*, has performed a variety of genres, including Latin American, Soul, Rhythm and Blues, and more. The MGMM has a rich history of performance within the continental USA. Some of the historical performances of both groups include:

1962 Concert Band Tour	Northern Louisiana/Texas
1963 Concert Band Tour	Arkansas/Missouri
1963 Indianapolis 500 Festival Parade	Indianapolis, IN
1964 Concert Band Tour	Mississippi/Louisiana
1964 Indianapolis 500 Festival Parade	Indianapolis, IN
1965 Rose Bowl Parade	Pasadena, CA
1965 1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Summer Band Camp	MVSU Campus
1968 Rose Bowl Parade	Pasadena, CA
1968 Presidential Inaugural Parade- Richard Nixon	Washington, D.C.
1972 Braniff Airlines “Battle of the Bands” Winter	Dallas, TX
1977 Presidential Inaugural Parade (University Center’s “Mississippi Band” (25) from each University)	Washington, D.C.
1983 National Olympic Sports Festival (Parade and Pre-Pageant Ceremony Representing the Southern States) DRUMS OVER THE ROCKIES	Colorado Springs, CO and Denver, CO
1983 Heritage Classic- Mississippi Valley State/Tennessee State	Memphis, TN
1984 Circle City Classic (Inaugural)- Mississippi Valley State/Grambling State	Indianapolis, IN
1985 Circle City Classic- Mississippi Valley State/Tennessee State	Indianapolis, IN
1992 Official Honor Band- George Bush’s Presidential Visit	Jackson, MS
1994 Gateway Classic- Mississippi Valley State/Howard University	St. Louis, MO
1994 Martin Luther King National Parade	Chicago, IL
1995 Bud Billiken “Back to School” Parade	Chicago, IL
1999 100 Black Men Parade (Inaugural)	Greenville, MS
2005 Chicago Football Classic- Mississippi Valley State/University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff	Chicago, IL
2005 Mardi Gras Parade	New Orleans, LA
2006 Chicago Football Classic- Mississippi Valley State/University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff	Chicago, IL

2007 Chicago Football Classic- Mississippi Valley State/Southern University	Chicago, IL
2007 HBCU National Band Directors Consortium- 4 students participated in the All Star Symphonic Band	Atlanta, GA
2008 Governor Haley Barbour Inauguration	Jackson, MS
2008 NCAA Basketball Tournament- Mississippi Valley State/UCLA	Anaheim, CA
2014	(missing)
2015	(missing)
2016 Mardi Gras	New Orleans, LA
2016	El Paso, TX
2016 Inaugural Steel City Drumline Battle of the Bands	Gary, IN

### **Biographical Sketch of Directors**

Prior to 1961, records reflect that **Mr. Clifford Dewees Hodges** was band director. NO other information is listed on him and his accomplishments. Photographs show that the Marching Band and Jazz band had an active role in representing the University.

Since its rebirth in 1961, by **Russell Boone** (St. Louis native), this unit has reversed the total thinking philosophy of what school bands should present within the total performance package. As an innovator, Mr. Boone's background with Drum Corps as a youth, and as a successful music educator in the public schools, the stage was set at Mississippi Valley State for his directorship to break new grounds for contemporary concepts in band.

The marching band was the first to break from the traditional marching band cliché to Drum Corps Style in 1961, by introducing "atmospheric ornamentation" and drill designs within the field show presentations. Halftime shows ran the gamut of standard marches, Show/Broadway musical tunes, classical excerpts, and popular selections.

**O'Neil Sanford** (Louisiana native) was director of the band for one year before departing for Virginia State University, University of Minnesota, University of Pittsburg, and Norfolk State University. During his tenure at MVSU, the band won the Braniff Airlines Battle of the Bands at Texas Stadium in the spring of 1973.

From 1973-2005, the university band was led by **Leonard E. Tramiel**, a MVSU alumnus and Shreveport, LA native. Prior to his appointment at MVSU, Tramiel was a band director, and teacher of music and Social Studies in the Fayette County School District (Fayette, AL), and Director of Bands and Instructor of Music in the Tuscaloosa City School District (Tuscaloosa, AL).

In August 2005, **Michael Torregano** (New Orleans, LA native) assumed leadership of the band program. He taught in the New Orleans Public Schools for 21 years prior to his appointment at MVSU. Torregano was succeeded by **Dr. Darryl Harris** (2011-2013), and **Blake Gaines** (2013-2016).

In July 2016, **Kenneth Milton, Sr.** assumed leadership of the University Bands. Milton has served for over 20 years in various capacities to include Trumpet Instructor and Associate Band Director at MVSU, prior to his current appointment. Under his leadership, the band continues to excel and serve as ambassadors for Mississippi Valley State University. Standing on a rich history, the band program aims to be the premier cultural resource serving the Mississippi Delta and surrounding regions.

## Fall Performance Schedule

Date	Event	Location	Time
8/26—8/28	Steel City Drumline Battle of the Bands	Gary, IN	TBA
9/10	Home Game vs. Alabama A&M University <i>(Military Appreciation Day)</i>	Rice-Totten Stadium	4:00 p.m.
9/17	NSBA Central Region Band Championships- Exhibition Performace	Rice-Totten Stadium	5:00 p.m.
9/24	Home Game vs. Prairie View A&M University <i>(High School Day)</i>	Rice-Totten Stadium	4:00 p.m.
10/1	Away Game @ Jackson State University	Veterans Memorial Stadium (Jackson, MS)	6:00 p.m.
10/22	<b>HOME COMING</b> vs. Grambling State University	Rice-Totten Stadium	2:00 p.m.
11/5	Away Game @ University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff	Golden Lion Stadium (Pine Bluff, AR)	2:30 p.m.
11/12	Home Game vs. Alcorn State University <i>(Family &amp; Friends/Senior Day)</i>	Rice-Totten Stadium	1:00 p.m.
11/28	Winona Christmas Parade	Winona Co, MS	TBA
12/2—12/3	*SWAC Championship	Houston, TX	3:00 p.m.
12/17	*Celebration Bowl	TBA	TBA
TBA	Winter/Christmas Parades	TBA	TBA

**Note: This schedule is tentative, and is subject to revisions, additions, or cancellations.**