



# Education Support

## Selecting Effective Performance Music

*by Joyce E. Pennington*

In performance, we can measure the success of a presentation by what we hear as well as what we see. A great dance/ drill team routine can fall to mediocrity when the music selection or quality is not right. There are three important variables in musical presentation that will make or break your routine:

1. Type of Music
2. Tempo or Rhythm
3. Quality of Music Recording

In the initial selection of your music, always make sure that you have listened carefully to the words as well as the general message of the song. With the strong influence of morals and values that we teach and demonstrate through drill team, it is imperative that we do not misrepresent ourselves by a poor choice of song selection for a performance.

The rhythm or tempo of the music will affect the energy level of the performers as well as the response of the audience. There are many good selections of music that become more dynamic by speeding up the music slightly with your tempo app. On the other hand, music that may have a tempo far too fast may be slowed down to better accommodate a high kick, lyrical jazz or modern dance routine. Experiment with the tempo until you achieve the perfect rhythm for the style of routine your team is performing.

Last, but not least, make sure you have the highest quality possible for your musical recording. I have seen so many great teams work weeks and weeks in preparation for a contest or special performance routine only to fall short because of a poor musical recording. Keep in mind the amount of money you spend on costumes and preparation for choreography and be willing to put the same forethought into your music. There are many resources to use to obtain a good recording: your choir or band department at school, local radio stations, or high tech music enthusiast. Make sure you have edited your music properly to fade or end at the right point.

Your musicality is so important to the success of your performance. When you have made sure that you have selected the right piece of music, you have experimented to find the right tempo and your recording is of the best quality, present your music with plenty of volume, on good sound equipment and you will have the best results possible...Break a leg!

