

The Marching 97 to Perform in London's 2018 New Year's Day Parade



The Invitation

"The finest band east of all points west" was officially invited to bring its legendary spirit, showmanship, and musical talent to perform in London's 2018 New Year's Day Parade. The parade features outstanding American marching bands and attracts more than 650,000 spectators and an estimated 300 million viewers worldwide. Because of the remarkable reputation and unique performance style of the Marching 97, the band was personally selected by the parade committee and extended this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

The Rewards

This exceptional eight-day trip for the Marching 97 includes participating in London's 2018 New Year's Day Parade; performing in a gala concert; attending a lecture by Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser, renowned expert on student leadership development; and touring historic London, including the Tower of London, Windsor, and more.

Many band members have not participated in an international educational experience due to the rigor of their academic curriculum, activities, or cost. This trip offers both undergraduate and graduate students who represent the Marching 97 that chance. Performing in the parade will also spotlight Lehigh as a premier educational institution with outstanding student opportunities. This international exposure will help attract the best and brightest students from around the world.

Opportunities for Lehigh alumni to ring in 2018 with the Marching 97 are being planned now and include grandstand seating for the parade, tickets to the gala performance, or watching the performance via a live stream or other broadcast.

The Challenge

You can help support this extraordinary initiative. The expenses for transportation, lodging, meals, and itinerary activities for the entire band and five staff members are estimated to cost more than \$300,000.

Please help to ensure the Marching 97 can entertain crowds on an international stage. Visit mylehigh.lehigh.edu/M97London to make your gift today.



Photo by Samuel Henry '20, *The Brown and White*

The former Lord Mayor of the city of Westminster in London, Catherine Longworth (in ceremonial red cloak), visited campus on November 14, 2016, to officially invite the Marching 97 to perform. Marching 97 student manager Rob Hillman '17 holds the invitation and is surrounded by enthusiastic band members.

Robert Bone, London parade and festival founder and director (in tie), said about the group, "They are really going to thrill the crowds in England. I am sure of it."



OPPORTUNITIES for Impact

A Lehigh education transforms young men and women into the kinds of leaders and contributors our world needs today. Gifts supporting this opportunity for the Marching 97 advance the distinctive and transformative Lehigh experience. Your generosity will help provide these scholar-musicians with an educational and cultural chance of a lifetime.

Sponsor a Musician (or more than one!)

\$3,000 is the estimated cost per person for the trip, which includes airfare, lodging, meals, shipping of equipment, ground transportation, and activities. Lehigh's International Travel Advisory Committee requires three Lehigh employees and two additional adults to accompany the band. Please sponsor a musician or staff member today!

The Marching 97 consists of Lehigh students performing the following instruments:

Brass Instruments: 40

Trombones: 8

Trumpets: 18

Tubas: 5

Baritone Horns: 1

Mellophones: 8

Woodwind Instruments: 40

Clarinets: 9

Piccolos: 12

Alto Saxophones: 10

Tenor Saxophones: 5

Baritone Saxophones: 4

Percussion: 17

Snare Drums: 6

Tenor Drums (Quads): 3

Bass Drums: 5

Cymbals: 3

For more information, please contact Ben Landis '00G, associate director, Lehigh Fund, at (610) 758-4238 or bw1200@lehigh.edu.

Visit mylehigh.lehigh.edu/M97London to make your gift.



Students who travel abroad increase their intellectual and social engagement and gain confidence and global competencies that will serve them well in life.



"It is such an honor for the Marching 97 to be selected to perform in London's 2018 New Year's Day parade," said Al Neumeyer, long-standing faculty director of the Marching 97.