

KAPPA KAPPA PSI

GREAT MUSICIANSHIP IDEAS FROM CHAPTERS

Kappa Kappa Psi is first and foremost a *musical fraternity dedicated to college bands*. As brothers, one of the best ways to serve your band is by being strong musicians, as well as promoting music in your band and in your community. This handout provides some ideas that have worked in other chapters. How can you adapt them to work for your own chapter and band?

Music within the Chapter

- **How can you showcase brothers' talents?** Many chapters, including Alpha (Oklahoma State University), Alpha Omega (University of Pittsburgh), and Epsilon Xi (Miami University of Ohio), put on annual recitals for brothers to perform in.
- **How can you support your fellow brothers' musicianship development?** Nu Epsilon brothers at Idaho State University were assigned practice buddies to meet up with over the course of November to give each other constructive criticism over jury pieces, scales, and ensemble music.
- **How can you promote lifelong musicianship for all brothers?** The Director of Bands at Howard Payne University (Zeta Beta chapter) presented a workshop on how non-music majors can stay involved in music.
- **How can you expand brothers' performing and teaching capabilities?** Gamma Iota at the University of New Mexico conducted an instrument swap. Brothers traded instruments and taught one another about how to play their instruments.
- **How can you be creative with the fraternity's music?** Epsilon Pi brothers at Kansas State University arranged and performed the KKPsi Hymn for a brass ensemble.
- **How can you celebrate minority musicians and/or musicians from your community?** Nu Eta at St. Augustine's University played a trivia game on prominent musicians from Historically Black Colleges and Universities.
- **How can you use social media to celebrate music?** Beta Omicron at Arizona State University held a "Music Appreciation Week" in which brothers posted songs on social media in response to prompts such as Motivational Monday, Transformation Tuesday, and Throwback Thursday.
- **How can you promote brotherhood through recital attendance?** Epsilon Iota brothers at Mansfield University attended the saxophone studio recital in support of a brother performing in the concert.
- **How can you celebrate music through the Ritual?** Kappa Iota brothers at the University of Nebraska – Omaha met to discuss the meaning and purpose of music during each Ritual of initiation. They created an appropriate playlist that fits the chapter and the ritual's lessons.
- **How can you celebrate brothers' individual musical lives?** Omicron brothers at West Virginia University took turns managing the chapter's Snapchat account to show how music influences their daily life.
- **How can you make musicianship a regular focus?** Alpha Eta at the University of Florida posted a "Music Monday" update to their chapter page each week. The post included upcoming School of Music events, a "Music MVP" to highlight brothers who have excelled in showcasing their love and appreciation for music, and an outstanding musical piece for listening.
- **How can you celebrate prominent musicians in membership education?** To honor their late band director for his contributions to the band community, Epsilon Nu brothers from the University of Massachusetts walked with their Membership Candidates to locations on campus that were significant to the life of Mr. George N. Parks and shared stories about him.

Music within the Band

- **How can you celebrate musicianship with your band?** Mu Mu at the University of Central Oklahoma held a watch party for the Bands Of America finals. This doubled as a recruitment and social event.
- **How can you promote music through friendly competition?** Mu Rho at Benedict College created a contest in which each of the instrumental sections in the band prepared fanfares to compete for best section honors within the marching band. The best section was recognized at the band banquet.
- **How can you support music majors?** Mu Lambda brothers at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor hosted mock juries for music majors.
- **How can you promote your band through ongoing campus events?** The Zeta Psi chapter at Virginia State University formed a gig band that performed at Unplugged, a campus musical showcase.
- **How can you help your band practice?** The Sigma chapter at Ohio Northern University hosted “memorization clinics” in which marching band members worked on memorizing their show music in creative ways.
- **How can you preserve musicians’ accomplishments?** Epsilon Upsilon at the University of Maine recorded music students’ recitals each week.
- **How can you encourage bandmembers to practice?** Theta Zeta at Ashland University hosted the Month of Musicianship Practice Challenge, in which bandmembers recorded how many hours they practiced to compete for a prize.
- **How can you help connect bands with one another?** Theta Lambda at the University of Memphis helped promote and stage the First Annual Band-O-Rama concert. This concert showcased the symphonic band, wind ensemble, and marching band.
- **How can you celebrate music’s broader impact with your bandmembers?** Eta Chi at Bowie State University hosted a public “Music and Culture” forum that investigated how the music they listen to today affects society.

Music within the Campus/Community

- **How can you promote music—and use music to promote other events—on campus?** The Nu Gamma chapter at Robert Morris University hosted a variety of events last November. Their activities included posting music-oriented decorations around campus, selling bracelets with musical charms to raise money for high school band programs, broadcasting a weekly campus radio show, performing live music during lunch hours in small ensembles, and performing every day for two weeks to support the collection of Toys for Tots around campus.
- **How can you educate your fellow college students on the musical opportunities your university has to offer?** The Theta Rho chapter at Lincoln University hosted a chapter booth at the university organization fair to promote music and educate other students on the importance of music.
- **How can you create a positive atmosphere after concerts?** The Mu Tau chapter at University of Texas – San Antonio provided drinks and snacks after musical performances for the audience and musicians.
- **How can you collaborate with other organizations in your community?** The Delta Gamma chapter at Missouri University of Science and Technology planned a performance for Boy/Girl Scouts to earn their Music Merit Badges.
- **How can you promote music to future bandmembers?** Seeing the decline in enthusiasm about band in Mississippi school systems, members of the Iota Beta chapter at Alcorn State University reached out to multiple local daycares and elementary schools to promote music. Members formed a small band and introduced the children to multiple wind and percussion instruments.

Final Thoughts

This list is by no means all-inclusive! Just like service projects, chapters develop creative new ways to promote musicianship every year. These ideas are taken from the 2015-2017 biennium, so feel free to use the Chapter Directory on the fraternity website to contact these chapters and ask them for more details.