



NOVA FUNDRAISING RESOURCE

What It Takes to Put an Ensemble on the Floor

Why instruments are only the beginning



NOVA has already cleared the largest equipment barrier

Marching percussion is equipment-intensive. A complete ensemble may require marching drums, cymbals, marimbas, vibraphones, timpani, concert percussion, hardware, amplification, and electronics. Building that inventory from the ground up can prevent a new program from beginning at all.

NOVA Performing Arts already owns the core battery, front-ensemble, and electronic equipment needed to launch NOVA 8 Percussion. The collection has a current replacement value of more than **\$170,000**. It was assembled through private support over a number of years, culminating most recently in a drum purchase of nearly **\$20,000** in spring 2026.

That history matters. It means NOVA is not asking the community to fund an idea with no foundation. The instruments exist. The next challenge is activating them as a dependable educational program.

Instruments create capacity. People, time, space, and operating support turn that capacity into student opportunity.

What each rehearsal requires

Qualified people

Students need experienced percussion educators who can teach battery and front-ensemble technique, musicianship, movement, rehearsal habits, and ensemble coordination. A reliable program also needs leadership for scheduling, family communication, registration, equipment, safety, and partnerships.



Paying educators and staff is not overhead separate from the mission. Their work is how the mission reaches students.

A safe, consistent place

Marching percussion needs room for students, large instruments, movement, storage, and appropriate sound levels. A practical site must also support safe arrival and dismissal, restrooms, hydration, emergency access, and predictable scheduling.

A donated or reduced-cost rehearsal facility can be as valuable as a direct financial gift because it lowers a major recurring operating expense.

Supplies and instrument care

Owning instruments does not eliminate ongoing costs. Drumheads, sticks, mallets, cymbal accessories, cables, batteries, small hardware, cart repairs, protective materials, and routine maintenance are consumed or worn through use.

These are not glamorous purchases, but they keep instruments playable, safe, and ready for students.

Student access

Tuition alone cannot provide both excellent instruction and broad access at a small founding-program scale. Donor support can reduce participation costs, provide need-based assistance, and help families who face practical barriers.

Access funding protects program quality while making that quality available to more students.

Safety and dependable operations

Youth programming requires background screening, appropriate adult supervision, insurance, emergency planning, attendance controls, family communication, registration systems, and clear conduct and reporting procedures.

These systems are mostly invisible during a performance. They are also nonnegotiable.

A reason to work together

Students need music, rehearsal goals, and meaningful opportunities to share what they have learned. Performances and participatory events require planning, communication, setup, transportation of equipment, and responsible production support.

The public moment may be brief. The learning comes from the preparation that makes it possible.

What NOVA has and what support activates

Already in place	Community support activates
A full core battery and front ensemble	Qualified instructors and program leadership
Electronics and amplification	A safe, reliable rehearsal facility



Already in place	Community support activates
More than \$170,000 in replacement-value equipment	Student assistance and accessible participation
A defined noncompetitive educational model	Youth safety, insurance, registration, and administration
Evidence of prior private commitment	Consumables, maintenance, music, and performance operations

How NOVA will show the work

NOVA intends to measure more than the final performance. Its accountability measures include:

- students served and assistance provided;
- schools and Central Texas communities represented;
- hours of high-quality instruction delivered;
- student retention and continued participation;
- growth reported by students, families, and educators;
- responsible use of contributed and earned funds.

The simple case for support

NOVA does not need the community to buy a collection of instruments before students can begin. It needs founding partners who will help put excellent teachers in front of those instruments, place students in a safe rehearsal environment, and support the operating structure that makes each rehearsal dependable.

The equipment is ready. Support makes it educational.

Continue the conversation

- Explore NOVA's current funding priorities: nova-pa-alpha.vercel.app/support
- Discuss a contribution, sponsorship, or facility partnership: nova-pa-alpha.vercel.app/contact?topic=Donor+or+sponsor#contact-form
- Learn about NOVA 8 Percussion: nova-pa-alpha.vercel.app/nova-8