



## We're going to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade! Exciting stuff and Congratulations!

So now what? How do we get there? What does it cost? How many people can we take? When do we rehearse? What is expected of me? All great questions that we'll take a look at here, and provide you plenty of further updates and additions along our...Road to Macy's 2019!

**The Macy's Parade** For all of us self-proclaimed "Band Geeks" this is the granddaddy of all parades. It's an honor to march Macy's once, but to be invited a "second time around"? Just **WOW!**

The most popular holiday parade in America attracts nearly 4 million people to the streets of New York City and another 50-60 million TV viewers nationwide featuring only the "best of the best" in marching bands.

To join the Rounders at Macy's commits you to learning your routine, memorizing your music, and attending every rehearsal toward earning this "best of the best" title. Without your dedication and commitment to everything from the detail of the drill, to the precise twirl of the baton, to the whiteness of your shoes, the memorization of every note and phrase, and attendance at every rehearsal, the band might look and sound a little flat in New York. March with us instead with your commitment to all thing's Macy's and the band will definitely "wow" the crowd!

Here's what our Macy's trip, and your commitment, looks like as of now (mid-June 2018).

**Take a look at how to join us!**



### **Macy's Performance and Rehearsal Dates:**

Your commitment to Macy's 2019 starts with your scheduling to make each and every rehearsal and performance related to this impressive event. Rehearsals aren't optional (they just aren't) and more than one excused absence might result in your much-coveted spot being filled. We suggest working your calendar **NOW** to know that you will absolutely be in formation when the band needs you. Call the boss, move the wedding (kidding), and plan these important dates as you would any other "not to miss" event in your life. The Road to Macy's begins with these "not to miss" dates!

Our percussion and auxiliary will likely have additional rehearsal dates to those now published. We'll make sure you're up on them as they are announced!

The parade itself is of course on Thanksgiving Day, **Thursday November 28** in New York City. The band will rehearse the evening before in New Jersey (100% mandatory) and is asking you to make your flight arrangements to the New York area to arrive on Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. Wednesday travel is ok if you absolutely can't come earlier but you'll want to be on those early "first flights" out of Florida that day! We'll leave for the Armory and rehearsal as early as 3pm on Wednesday!

### **Spring Season Performance and Rehearsal Dates:**

The Rounders Macy's season will actually start, as is tradition, in the Winter/Spring (January 2019). We ENCOURAGE all those wishing to march Macy's to also march our Spring season as the three tunes we'll play, dance, and twirl to in New York will be introduced at that time. As the music for Macy's must be memorized, and the routines perfected, this gives you more time to personally pull your part of the show together (everything except the Herald Square drill, that is).

You can certainly just join us in the Fall and march with us only during our Macy's season, but know that in cases where a section is at quota in participation (we can't march with 220 tubas, as example, we'd scare the kids!), PREFERENCE will be given to filling our Macy's spots to those that marched both the Spring season, and who can demonstrate the best performance qualities with the band (posture, in-step, endurance, music/routine memorization, etc). Ideally, everyone who wants to go with us will march, but if we have to set limits (a great problem for the band to have), preference will be given to those who marched in the Spring.

### **Fall Rehearsal Dates:**

Participation in the Spring is ENCOURAGED!

#### **Fall Rehearsal Dates:**

- ▶ Tues, Sept 17 First "March to Macy's" Rehearsal
- ▶ Sat, Sept 28 Mini Band Camp Rehearsal (4 hours) One
- ▶ Sat, Oct 12 Mini Band Camp Rehearsal (4 hours) Two
- ▶ Tues, Oct 22 March to Macy's Rehearsal
- ▶ Sat, Oct 26 Dress Rehearsal and Taping for NBC
- ▶ Tues, Nov 12 March to Macy's Rehearsal
- ▶ Sat, Nov 23 Macy's Refresher Rehearsal and FMBC Performance at Tropicana Field
- ▶ Wed, Nov 27 Macy's Run Through in New York City



Below is our rehearsal and performance schedule for the Spring. We ask you to commit to 100% of our performances (just 4 days, possibly a 5<sup>th</sup> being considered) and to have no more than one (1) excused absence from rehearsal. No picking and choosing events to march/perform in, please, "block" your calendars to attend.

As in the fall, our percussion and auxiliary will likely have additional rehearsal dates to those now published. We'll make sure you're up on them as they are announced!

### The Macy's Experience

So, you can make all the rehearsals? Well then please, join the Rounders at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade 2019!

**Hotel:** The Rounders will stay in the heart of New York City's Theater District and Times Square at the Row Hotel located at 700 8th Avenue, between 44th and 45th Street, New York, NY 10036 Phone: 212-869-3600. We'll be in the center of the action at this "downtown cool" boutique twenty-eight floor, 1300+ room Inn.

Hotel rooms in the heart of the City built a while back can be smaller than modern hotels more

recently built but  
we think you'll find  
the features and  
amenities of the

Row just right for your New York City Rounders stay!

Our famous Rounders Hospitality Suite will occupy the Penthouse, a good place to meet new friends or gather with friends-old and dear.

Our tour partner, Performing Arts Consultants (PAC) has negotiated competitive rates during this peak NYC week that includes complimentary Wi-Fi, 10% discounts at the nearby indoor food

markets and gift shop, the mandatory NYC baggage handling fees (welcome to NYC!), resort fees, and, occupancy/state/local taxes). Additional nights to our 4-night (and 3-night) Macy's packages will be available at the same rates, before our dates, at a little more after (Sat and Sun Nights +\$75.00 per room) space available.

### Rehearsals

2019: a "Shorter" Spring Season PLUS our Macy's Fall Season!

► Participation in the Spring is **ENCOURAGED** to join us at Macy's! Preference given if a section fills up!

#### ► Spring Rehearsal Dates:

- Tues, Jan 15 Pre Season Music Run Through
- Tues, Jan 29 First FULL Band/Auxiliary Rehearsal
- Tues, Feb 5 FULL Band/Auxiliary Rehearsal
- Tues, Feb 12 FULL Band/Auxiliary Rehearsal
- Tues, Feb 19 FULL Band/Auxiliary Rehearsal
- Tues, Feb 26 FULL Band/Auxiliary Marching Rehearsal

### Spring Performance Dates:

2019: a "Shorter" Spring Season PLUS our Macy's Fall Season!

Participation in the Spring is **ENCOURAGED** to join us at Macy's. **PREFERENCE** given if a section fills up!

#### Spring Performance Dates:

- Tues, March 5 Dunedin Mardi Gras Parade
- Sun, March 10 St. Petersburg Grand Prix Concert
- Sat, March 16 O'Keefe's St. Patrick's Day Party Concert
- Sat, March 16 Ybor City St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Sat, March 23 Pinellas Festival of Community Bands
- Sat, March 30 Chasco Fiesta Parade
- TBD: High School Combined Concert

Rounder room rates for this PEAK period in NYC are \$358.00 single, \$191. ea (double), \$140. ea (triple), and \$120.ea (quad).

**Airfare:** We first looked toward charter companies for our flights (at over \$600.00 RT pp to NYC) and decided that individual air options and booking your own airfare are in the best interest, price-wise, for members of the band. As example, for the same dates THIS year to fly to NYC for the Macy's parade, a few Rounders (going at their own expense) have booked non-stop airfare Tampa to LaGuardia Airport in New York for under \$260.00 RT pp.

Airfare quotes for Nov 2019 won't be available on any airline site till at least December (usually 11 months out), and there are no guarantees of similar pricing, so expect to pay (budget) about \$300.00-\$400.00 for your airfare (you'll likely find better!). As we get closer to the event, and airfare quotes become available, we'll send out periodic updates of what we see in best deals. When YOU see a great price to La Guardia, Kennedy, Newark, or even Islip...grab it! If you need help or assistance securing airfare, seek out a professional travel agent to book your "best deal."



**Equipment Transport:** All large instruments and guard equipment will be transported by truck (2 days) on behalf of the band. Band Aide assistance will be required with this both for our rehearsal on Wednesday night in New Jersey and on parade day with consideration given for your time and energy expensed (see Lee Lafleur). All fees related to the renting of the truck to NYC and related expense are included in the posted participation fee for the trip. After all, without our equipment making it there, none of us can march!

**Airport Transportation:** As you'll be booking your own airfare, the band and PAC will not be arranging airport transportation for you. There are a variety of options from shuttle buses, to Uber/Taxi, to city bus/subway combinations available to get you to the Row hotel. As example, the Uber fare from LGA to the ROW hotel is approximately \$42.00 (\$21.00 each if two of you, \$14.00 each if three, etc). Please use these numbers in budgeting your expense and Google for any of the other New York area airports.

**Ground Transportation:** The band will utilize bus transportation on three occasions in NYC, 1) Parade Day (albeit for very short distances) 2) Rehearsal at the Armory, and 3) Thanksgiving Day dinner. Transportation to the rehearsal and on parade day is mandatory to all marching members at \$40.00 pp. Thanksgiving Dinner transportation (\$18.00) has been added to the price of the Thanksgiving Day dinner outlined below. Those NOT staying at the band hotel are required to purchase the rehearsal and parade day transportation options (\$40.00).

To save you money, and because of the short distances involved, we are contracting for (heated) school buses and not charter coaches. If you're not staying at the Row Hotel with the band, you'll absolutely one-hundred-percent have to find your way to the Row on parade day, by 3am or so, to join the buses navigating through NYC. An ala carte payment option for this bus ticket will be included on the PAC website.

**Thanksgiving Morning Breakfast:** Every Macy's band completes a run-through of their Herald Square performance for NBC early on Thanksgiving morning. By early we mean...3 or 4am! Of course our exact time isn't yet established but after that run through, we'll reconvene at Planet Hollywood Times Square at 5am or so for a full HOT buffet breakfast for all performing members (mandatory due to logistics). Your tag alongs will have option to join you there if you would like (walking distance from the hotel).

**Thanksgiving Evening Dinner:** The Liberty House Restaurant is located in Liberty State Park, NJ, and offers breathtaking views of the spectacular New York City Skyline. This cosmopolitan, full-service restaurant and event space is one of the most sought-after locations in New Jersey, and the Rounders have it reserved for up to 1,000 people on Thanksgiving night!

Our family style Thanksgiving dinner will include baskets of freshly baked Corn Bread and Biscuits,

Traditional Fresh Vermont Turkey, Bourbon Glazed Ham, Stuffing, Mashed Sweet Potatoes, Natural Turkey Gravy, Green Beans, Caesar Salad, Fresh Baked Pumpkin Pie with whipped Cream Topping, Soda, Juice, Coffee and Tea. There will also be a cash bar and a special surprise treat in entertainment (we'll tell you later as not to ruin the surprise).

Securing the Liberty House is to enable all of us, Rounders families and friends, to enjoy a post parade Thanksgiving time together. PAC's all-inclusive price for dinner (tips, taxes, entertainment, etc.), is \$108.00 pp including bus transportation and will be available ala carte for

your consideration. We sincerely hope you all join in!

**Broadway Shows:** PAC has reserved seats at four popular Broadway shows for both Tuesday, and Friday nights while in New York. Other night are likely available with correspondence to PAC. These optional shows might just be the perfect finishing of your Macy's experience! After all, some theaters are just a 3 minute walk from the hotel! See PAC's Broadway offerings summary at the back of this information packet and, later, on their website!



## Our Schedule in New York (tentative).

### **Tuesday, November 26**

Flights to one of New York's four area airports

- Your transportation to the Row Hotel, Times Square
- Dinner, Broadway Show options & other sightseeing as you like
- Hospitality Suite Open!



### **Wednesday, November 27**

- Sightseeing on your own
  - 3:30 pm or so, transportation to New Jersey for full mandatory rehearsal and show run-through (\*\*ALL BAND MEMBERS!)
  - 7:30 pm or so, return to the hotel
  - Hospitality Suite Open
- \*\* Note on Wednesday, all performing members not staying at the band hotel (Row) will need to find their way to the hotel by 3:30 pm (or so (ytbd)) for rehearsal transportation



### **Thursday, November 28**

- 3:00 am or so, transportation to Herald Square for mandatory NBC camera run through. \*\*ALL BAND MEMBERS. No open spots permitted!
- 5:00 am Planet Hollywood group breakfast

Times Square (tag alongs welcome w/ticket!)

- 7:00 am pr so, line up off of Central Park (Parade Staging)
  - 9:00 am or so, Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade step-off
    - Note that our Herald Square performance is at the END of this 2.5 mile parade!
  - 11:00 am or so, Post Parade Group Photo the return to the Row hotel
  - 5:30 pm or so, Transportation to the Liberty House New Jersey
  - 6:15 pm Thanksgiving Dinner and Celebration at the Liberty House
  - 10:00 pm Hospitality Suite Open
- \*\* Note on Thursday, all performing members not staying at the band hotel (Row) will need to find their way to the hotel by 3:00 am (or so (ytbd)) for parade day transportation.

**Friday, November 29:**

- Free day to enjoy NYC
- Hospitality Suite open afternoon/evening
- Dinner & Broadway Show options as you wish!

**Saturday, November 30:**

- Free day to enjoy NYC till your scheduled flight
- Your airport Transportation
- Flights Home!
- Hospitality Suite Open Early Afternoon

**Uniforms**

A lot of work and effort has gone into finding and selecting just the right uniform for your Macy's experience. We could spend \$600.00 pp and look like "a million bucks" or spend nothing and possibly freeze in our current Florida garb. Neither option is a good one.

Our Macy's uniform needs to be practical for 5 degrees or 55, water resistant for rain or snow, and presentably sharp to help us look our best! The parade goes on regardless of the weather!

The uniform committee has presented to the Board, and the Board has approved our Macy's uniform 2019. These will be unveiled at the Rounders Holiday Party in December. Each of you will be "custom fit" for yours starting at the beginning of next year ensuring you'll look great for the cameras!

Pricing for the uniforms has been included in the funds coming to the band. Uniforms for our musicians, tall flags, letter and banner carriers, plus our honor guard and a few band aides will run \$110.00 pp. Majorette and Rounderette uniforms are \$230.00 (and will be worn in future seasons). Rifle and swing flag uniforms are \$170.00 and will be worn in future seasons. Previews of all our uniforms will be at the Holiday Party!

**Tag Alongs, Family, and Friends**

The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is all about family and friends. We encourage you to bring them along to enjoy viewing the parade and New York City with you, and definitely bring them to Thanksgiving dinner! In 2008 the Rounders brought over 1,000 folks to New York while marching 512!

Tag Alongs are welcome to book at our group rates but, for logistical reasons, are not allowed to the Armory for rehearsal Wednesday night nor on the buses on parade day. Please and thank you!.

We're staying just off the parade route in the heart of Manhattan and suggest your friends and family get an early start after Planet Hollywood (they are welcome there with ticket and is walkable from the hotel) to find their best viewing for the parade. We've seen a few commercial vendors selling everything from simple reserved parade viewing to gourmet all you can eat and drink packages at

\$500.00 or more. The band is not reselling any of these packages and suggest you Google to find the best parade options for your family and friends. When you find them, please share these with your Rounder friends as well (we'll set-up a bulletin board on the website). A \$25.00 Participation fee for Tag Alongs covers the Hospitality Suite expense for your friends and family (wrist-bands will be issued).



### **The Tally:**

Following is summary of pricing for the Macy's Parade due both separately to the band (for uniforms and participation), and to PAC (for rooms, transportation, and Thanksgiving Day meals).

**The band is looking for a \$100.00 pp commitment from you** to join us at the Macy's Parade! We need to know who's coming and ask you for this small deposit to verify your intent. Please take care of this by **July 31, 2018**. If you are Fundraising through the Tampa Bay Buccaneers or Tampa Bay Rays toward Macy's, please also pay your initial \$100.00 here (to be refunded at the end of the fundraisers against your balance). Credit cards are accepted (w/small convenience fee later added).

Additional payments for your uniform and participation fees, monies due the band, will be due and collected before the end of this year. New members, space available, will have additional payment options.

A link to make your initial \$100.00 deposit/payment will be found at [www.secondtimearounders.org](http://www.secondtimearounders.org).

Room, transportation, Broadway, and Thanksgiving Day meal payments will be made to our tour operator PAC. PAC's website for reservations will be up and running by **August 1<sup>st</sup>** with direction being sent to you as to how to book your PAC package and their payment schedule. Credit cards will be accepted (with small convenience fee).

Visit [www.secondtimearounders.org](http://www.secondtimearounders.org) to make your initial \$100.00 payment showing your commitment to march with us at Macy's 2019. Initial payment requested by July 31, 2018! Reserve your spot on our Road to Macy's 2019.

See you in Herald Square!

Lee Lafleur  
Board Member/Trips, venues, and logistics  
Second Time Arounders Marching Band  
[llafleurrounders@gmail.com](mailto:llafleurrounders@gmail.com)

Macy's Pricing <i>updated July 11</i>		Single	Double	Triple	Quad	
						<u>1 to a room</u> <u>2 to a room</u> <u>3 to a room</u> <u>4 to a room</u>
<b>Lodging</b>						
The Row Hotel (performer or tag along). One Night:		\$ 358	\$ 191	\$ 140	\$ 120	
<b>4 nights* Recommended</b>		<b>\$ 1,432</b>	<b>\$ 762</b>	<b>\$ 560</b>	<b>\$ 480</b>	
3 nights		\$ 1,074	\$ 572	\$ 420	\$ 360	
Performer Transportation (Mandatory for rehearsal and parade day)		\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 40	
Performer Planet Hollywood Breakfast (Mandatory for all performers)		\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	
<b>Other Trip Expenses</b>						
Participation Fee for expenses Common to the Band (all performers)		\$ 52				
Tag Along Participation Fee (includes Hospitality Suite access)		\$ 25				
Liberty House Thanksgiving Dinner including bus transport		\$ 108				
Planet Hollywood Breakfast for Tag Alongs		\$ 20				
Broadway Show Options (various)		Various				
<b>Uniforms</b>						
Uniform: Band, Tall Flag, Letters, Banner, Honor		\$ 110				
Uniform: Majorette/Rounderette		\$ 230				
Uniform: Rifles and Swing Flags		\$ 170				
<b>Totals for Four Nights (performers) (Includes Thanksgiving Dinner)</b>						
<b>Band Member 4 Night</b>		\$ 1,762	\$ 1,092	\$ 890	\$ 810	
<b>Majorette/Rounderette 4 Night</b>		\$ 1,882	\$ 1,212	\$ 1,010	\$ 930	
<b>Rifle/Flags 4 Night</b>		\$ 1,822	\$ 1,152	\$ 950	\$ 870	

- Published rates have increased by .08% since the initial post on June 19 BUT convenience fees for credit card use will drop 2% for visa/mac and 1% for amex. New processing options were secured facilitating this minor change. Check customers balances will be adjusted to June 19 pricing before next payment (a restriction in the software).

### Broadway Shows:

Performing Arts Consultants has reserved seats at four popular Broadway shows for both Tuesday, and Friday night while in New York. Other night are likely available with correspondence direct to PAC.

These optional shows might just be the perfect finishing of your Macy's NYC experience! After all, some theaters are just a 3 minute walk from the hotel! Tickets reservations are NOW AVAILABLE!

*Tickets for 2019 are technically not for sale at this time. Prices MIGHT change a few dollars when announced for Nov 2019 and PAC reserved the right to update your balance due.*

Here are the PAC Featured performances!

**Radio City Christmas Spectacular:** (\$80. - \$125.) Radio City Musical Hall has been one of the premier entertainment destinations in the world since opening in 1932 in New York City in the Rockefeller Center. The Radio City name was derived from the first tenants the Radio Corporation of America. Radio City Music Hall has hosted the Radio City Christmas Spectacular as an annual holiday musical production since 1933 featuring the dance team known as The Rockettes. The seating capacity is 5,933 for most shows. Radio City Music Hall has hosted the some of the biggest events on television including the Grammy's, the Tony's, the MTV Video Music Awards, and the ESPY Awards.

**Disney Aladdin:** (\$72. - \$212.) In the middle-eastern town of Agrabah, Princess Jasmine is feeling hemmed in by her father's desire to find her a royal groom. Meanwhile, the Sultan's right-hand man, Jafar, is plotting to take over the throne. When Jasmine sneaks out of the palace incognito, she forms an instant connection with Aladdin, a charming street urchin and reformed thief. After being discovered together, Aladdin is sentenced to death, but Jafar saves him by ordering him to fetch a lamp from the Cave of Wonders. Where there's a lamp, there's a Genie, and once Aladdin unwittingly lets this one out, anything can happen! Will Aladdin's new identity as "Prince Ali" help him win Jasmine's heart and thwart Jafar's evil plans? Will the Genie's wish for freedom ever come true?

**Beautiful, The Carole King Story:** (\$74. - \$134.) The fascinating life of one of pop music's greatest performers and songwriters takes center stage in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*. The show begins just before Brooklyn native Carol Klein composes her first hit song, "Will You Love Me Tomorrow," in 1959 when she is 17, pregnant and newly married to 20-year-old lyricist Gerry Goffin. In the decade that follows, King and Goffin produce a string of classic hits while forming a lasting friendship with another composing couple, Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann. When Carole's personal life begins falling apart, she responds by stepping out of the shadows with *Tapestry*, a deeply personal collection of songs that becomes one of the best-selling albums of all time.

**Dear Evan Hansen:** (\$235. - \$265.) A letter that was never meant to be seen, a lie that was never meant to be told, a life he never dreamed he could have. Evan Hansen is about to get the one thing he's always wanted: a chance to finally fit in. The winner of 6 Tony Awards including best musical.

*Tickets for 2019 are technically not for sale at this time. Prices MIGHT change a few dollars when announced for Nov 2019 and PAC reserved the right to update your balance due.*

**\*\* Please note that all shows are subject to closing and availability at the time of booking.**

