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## WKU band accepts parade invitation in London

By THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE  
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The WKU Big Red Marching Band has received an invitation to perform in the 2025 London New Year's Day Parade.

The event is equivalent to the renowned Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade with more than 500,000 people in attendance annually, according to a WKU announcement.

The parade reaches approximately 82% of the U.S. television audience through PBS.

An official entourage arrived Monday at the Houchens Industries-L.T. Smith Stadium on the Western Kentucky University campus in Bowling Green to present the invitation.

Making the trip was former Lord Mayor for the city of Westminster and founding patron of parade, Roger Bramble, who is the senior patron and president of the London Mayors Association and the chairman of the parade plus his aide-de-camp Bill Northen, who serves as senior director of international participation for the event.

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The official performance invitation was accepted by Dr. Gary Schallert, WKU director of bands, and members of the WKU band .

"We are so excited for our students and our band to be presented with this amazing opportunity to travel and take the name of Western Kentucky University and the WKU Big Red Marching Band to a whole new level," Dr. Matthew McCurry, director of athletic bands and associate director of bands, said in the release.

"We have worked really hard to put the Big Red Marching Band in the spotlight on a national stage and have our students be recognized for the fantastic work that they do."

This invitation coincides with a landmark year for the WKU Big Red Marching Band, which will mark the 100th anniversary of its establishment.

"It will be exciting to step off the centenary year by marching in the London New Year's Day Parade." says Dr. Gary Schallert, Director of Bands.

