



## KILLER QUEEN'S **GAMBIT**

Chess is a game of a few, simple rules with one above all others: always fear the Queen! Join the FMP team as they take us through a cutthroat chess match in Killer Queen's Gambit, an unexpected musical melding of Faure, Susato... and the legendary, Freddie Mercury.

Marrying a clever, hip musical book to a clear, highly effective visual storyline makes for a production your students will love to perform, audiences will want to cheer, and judges won't hesitate to reward. Every move is a high stakes gamble in this game, but ultimately you will reign triumphant, for you... are the Queen.

This production, part of the Rosie Queen Signature Series, delivers a strategic masterpiece that mirrors the intensity of a high-stakes game on the chessboard.

As an added bonus, "Killer Queen's Gambit" offers an easier flex wind score option, providing flexibility for your developing ensemble.

FANNIN MUSICAL PRODUCTIONS

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# BIG PICTURE

## IDEAS

### COLOR GUARD MEMBERS:

- Wearing the Queen costume and serving as the chess characters.
- Using the CG as a general chess look and not being too specific with specific chess pieces, as most color guards will have different sizes of ensemble.
- If you have a strong soloist performer, you could highlight them as the "Queen" and utilize a crown on their head as you use them for solo virtuosic moments.

### MUSICIANS:

- Wearing traditional band costume OR suggested band top.
- Colors for optional band top can be adapted easily.

### VISUAL PROP IDEAS: \*USE AS MANY OR AS FEW AS DESIRED

- CHESS FLAT PROPS:
  - Utilizing various flats to showcase chess pieces
  - Frames/flats can be moved throughout the show (left stationary around the perimeter as a backdrop.
- FRONT SIDE LINE PROPS:
  - Utilizing printed vinyl with chess pieces
- 3-D CHESS PIECES:
  - Large foam chess pieces could be designed to give a 3-dimensional look to your set.
  - This option is more expensive
- CHECKERBOARD STAGE:
  - Elevate square stage to create a raised checkerboard look--think like the video game Q-bert. The picture on the board could be in black and white.
- TARPS:
  - Utilizing one level of layered checkerboard tarp pieces to delineate space and showcase the chess board.
  - You could digitally print checkerboard pattern.
  - Paint a checkerboard pattern
  - Or use small square pieces to create a checkerboard pattern (see pics on next page)
    - Be mindful of wind and outdoor conditions that can make using tarps challenging.
    - You will likely need to weigh down the edges with small weighted bars to hold it down during windy days.
  - PULLOVER: "CHECKMATE" --could be used at the very end of the show!



**PURCHASE PRINTED  
VINYL, PROPS, FLAGS  
FROM ROSIE QUEEN  
@FIELDANDFLOORFX**



# FIELD SET UPS

ALL OF THESE CAN BE ADJUSTED IN SIZE AND NUMBER



SAMPLE





# IDEAS FOR DRILL WRITER

## PART 1: Introduction of the Chess Pieces

**VISUAL:**  
Listen to the narration and try to interpret each chess piece description through the use of drill, staging, and choreography. Featuring small vignettes of color guard dancers or flags with each small featured group of musicians to lead our eye through the experience.

All color guard will be on flag by M37 so that we can do a full color field moment by M43. We will want to feature one color guard soloist with a crown on her head. She could even have a special "Queen" flag" to highlight her and establish her character.

"Chess pieces move according to a strict set of rules."

"Pawns may only move forward one or two spaces at a time."

Pawn section—small 4 count moves/holds--feature drill moving forward one or two steps at a time.

Bar 9 Pawns Play (Mid-Voices)  
Bar 10 Pawns Move (Mid-Voices)  
Bar 11 Pawns Play (Mid-Voices)  
Bar 12 Pawns Move (Mid-Voices)

"Rooks move in straight lines as far as they can"--feature drill moving in straight lines

Bars 17-20 Rooks are featured (Mid-Voices)

"Bishops may only move on the diagonal!"--feature drill moving on the diagonal

Bars 25-28 Bishops are featured (Mid-Voices)

"Knights are unique in that they move in an L shape."--feature drill movin in an L shape

Bars 33-36 Knights are featured (Low Brass)  
Bars 37-42 Building full ensemble  
Maybe start facing field and then add 4 count turn in bar 41

"But the most powerful piece of them all, is the Queen..." -- big company front set

### Introduction of the Queen

Bars 43-53 Band Holding—a guard solo/soli-Queen character(s) featured  
Bars 54-56 Slight swing feel

### "GAME ON"

#### Applause time-set new tempo

Bars 67-68

#### Mvt 1 Outro--Time to reorder the field and set up staging for Mvt 2

Bars 69-81

#### Mvt 1 and Mvt 2 connect without pause