

PERCUSSION AUDITION

For admission to the School of Music and Dance as a Music Major with percussion as your principal performing instrument. (as opposed to trumpet or violin)

by Prof. Charles Dowd 9/99

Note: The percussion audition is designed to admit musicians capable of studying and mastering university–level repertoire, playing with conductors in ensembles which program university–level music, and studying percussion performance at the university level with artist percussionists. The audition is geared for university-level percussion student helping guide the student into the levels of musical study appropriate for each individual player. An “audition” means we listen to you play; we listen to how you sound. We conclude with an interview.

AUDITION CHECKLIST (You prepare your pieces; we provide sightreading.)

1. Play a **snare drum** solo piece which you have prepared and coached already.
2. Sightread a new snare drum part. Play some snare drum rudiments.
3. Play a **marimba** or vibraphone solo piece which you prepared and coached.
4. Sightread a new mallet keyboard etude. Play some minor/major scales.
5. Play a **timpani** solo piece which you have prepared and coached already.
6. Sightread a new timpani etude. Sing some intervals to check your ear.
7. Play six “grooves” on **drumset**. Play a prepared improvised drum solo.
8. Sightread a big band drum chart and/or drumset etude from a drum book.

WHAT TO BRING

Bring your own mallets, sticks, sheet music, all your drum and percussion books. Many students audition on their own snare drum, drumset and marimba. If you don't bring your own instruments, we will provide our own percussion instruments for you to play. You can warm up in our fully equipped studios.

YOUR ADMISSIONS FILE

1. School of Music application. Bring past recital programs if you have them.
2. A second copy of your high school and/or college transcripts. (required)
3. Three (3) letters of recommendation: 1) private percussion teacher, 2) band director, 3) orchestra conductor, jazz band director or musician who knows you.
4. Complete resume telling who you've played with, worked, studied, awards etc....
5. Repertoire list telling concert band, orchestra, jazz, solo music you've played.
6. Statement of Career Intent: Why are you a musician? What are your goals?
7. Photocopies of your Prepared Solo Pieces you'll play at your audition.