



# UNIVERSITY OF UTAH SCHOOL OF MUSIC

## PERCUSSION AREA AUDITION INFORMATION

### Table of Contents

<b>EQUIPMENT PROVIDED LIST .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>WHAT TO BRING.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>AUDITION TIPS .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR? .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>REPERTOIRE .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>BEFORE THE AUDITION DAY .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>TRAVELING TO THE AUDITION .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>DEMEANOR / PROFESSIONALISM .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>AT THE AUDITION SITE - WARM-UP .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>THE AUDITION ROOM.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>PERFORMANCE TIPS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>BE PREPARED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>BE PREPARED TO ASK QUESTIONS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>AFTER THE AUDITION .....</b>	<b>5</b>

### EQUIPMENT PROVIDED LIST

- Snare Drums
  - 5 x 14inch Wood Pearl Philharmonic
  - 6.5 x 14 inch Wood Pearl Philharmonic
  - 5 x 14 inch Aluminum Pearl Philharmonic
  - 5 x 14 inch Brass Pearl Philharmonic
  - 4 x 13 Wood Pearl Philharmonic
  - Yamaha 9300 SFZ Marching Snare Drum
- Snare Drum Stands

- Standard Height Stand - Adjustable
- Low Height Stand - Adjustable
- Extended Height Stand - Adjustable
- Marimba-one 5-octave
  - Premium Keyboard and Basso Bravo Resonators
  - Height Adjustable
- Yamaha Vibraphone (4-octave)
  - YV2700 Series
  - Gold Bars
- Yamaha Timpani (set of 5) with stool
  - 7300 Professional Series Hammered Copper
  - Sizes: 32, 29, 26, 23, 20
- DeMorrow Xylophone – <https://www.demorrowinstruments.com/instruments#/xylophone>
  - **NOTE:** This is a wide bar xylophone.
    - Make sure to check out the link
    - PRACTICE TIP – practice on the high end of a marimba
  - Height - 35.5 Inches / Non-Adjustable
  - 2 inch bar width
- Orchestral Crash Cymbals
  - 16” Zildjian K Constantinople Medium Light
  - 17” Zildjian K Symphonic
  - 18” Zildjian K Constantinople Medium Light
- Tambourines
  - It is recommended that prospective students auditioning provide their own tambourine
- Various trap stands for sticks and mallets
- Drumset
  - audition material is submitted through video to: [mike.sammons@utah.edu](mailto:mike.sammons@utah.edu)

## WHAT TO BRING

- Resume
- Letter of Interest
  - Why music?
  - Why career in music?
  - What would you be doing in music if you were guaranteed success?
  - Why the University of Utah?
- All Sticks and Mallets
- Tuning fork (A and/or Bb) for Timpani Tuning

## AUDITION TIPS

### WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

- We look for the right person *first*, musician second and percussionist third
- More specifically, individuals that make mature decisions about sounds on all percussion instruments and who demonstrate a good sense of time and rhythm
- *IT'S ABOUT YOUR FUTURE POTENTIAL*, not necessarily where you are at right now!
- How vs. What. Audition quality over quantity - not always about the most difficult repertoire.

- How coachable are you?
- Teamwork / Fit: Students that will fit the culture of the percussion studio.
- *THE REAL AUDITION*
  - This is the mini-lesson part of the audition where faculty might spend a few minutes working with the you on one of your selections. We might ask prospective students to phrase something differently or offer some suggestions on a certain passage. We will often ask about the structure of the piece or theoretical questions. We usually ask creative questions such as “what are you trying to musically or emotionally convey in this section or overall in the piece?” This is where you see if the person can adapt and is creative, what their cognitive musicianship skills are and most of all, if they are coachable.

## REPERTOIRE

- Be aware of the required audition material:
  - <https://music.utah.edu/students/admissions-scholarships.php#auditions>
- NOTE AUDITION TIME SLOTS:
  - 15 minutes for Undergraduate Students
  - 30 minutes for Graduate Students
- Make sure that all of your repertoire fits into this timeline
  - You may take cuts in pieces (especially long marimba and vibraphone pieces) so that you play the important and/or your favorite parts of the piece

## BEFORE THE AUDITION DAY

- MOCK AUDITIONS
  - Simulate / Practice performing under pressure
    - Little things that you may have overlooked will become apparent, like forgetting to turn off the snares or how to arrange your mallets as well as general flow of your entire performance (yes, including logistics)
  - Play for 3 types of people
    - Someone who thinks everything you do is awesome
    - Someone who is extremely detailed in their critique
    - Someone more objective
  - Video tape them so you can watch, listen back and take notes
    - Watch video with no sound
    - Just listen to audio
- SLEEP
  - Get several evening’s worth of good night sleeps

## TRAVELING TO THE AUDITION

- Arrive Early
- Allow time to do things in a relaxed manner.
- If traveling a long distance, arrive the day before. Take a campus tour, meet with the faculty, observe rehearsals, meet current members of the percussion studio.
- Ensure a SLOW, stress free warm-up.

## DEMEANOR / PROFESSIONALISM

- Dress - business

- Have a good selection of appropriate and well-cared for sticks and mallets. Do not expect them to be supplied at the audition site.
- Organized music in a binder for yourself (if not memorized) in performance order.
- Mallets laid out on tray stand or organized in a bag such as:
  - <http://www.freerpercussion.com/freer-vertical-stage-soft-case-cvs/>
  - Other cheaper options readily available at: <http://www.steveweissmusic.com/>

#### AT THE AUDITION SITE - WARM-UP

- Use Warm-up Room (not floor outside the room)
- Have a routine for each instrument
- Warm-up / Preparation
  - Stretch / Breathing Ex
  - Visualization
- Play difficult passages from your pieces SLOWLY
- Play nothing at tempo
- Sing through pieces more than actually playing them

#### THE AUDITION ROOM

- Say hello and introduce yourself
- Set up all instruments, mallets, tray table and music stands with music
  - Use stick towels or stick bags as necessary.
- Make sure all instruments are at the correct height
- Pre-tune Timpani
- Know what order that YOU want to play your pieces in. Announce each one and proceed
  - I recommend starting and ending with your strongest pieces
- HAVE FUN PERFORMING - PUT ON SHOW! Forget about an audition!
- No matter what happens, keep going and end each piece as though you were performing in front of a packed concert hall. SMILE!
- If you make a mistake, show that you have the maturity and poise to forget about it and go on with confidence.
- When leaving the room, thank the audition committee for their time

#### PERFORMANCE TIPS

- Take your time between pieces / instruments
- Sing a little of the piece in your head to establish tempo.
- Be sure not to stop once you have begun to play. If you stop or say “I’m sorry,” you will have broadcast the fact that something went wrong.
- If you need to stop, that’s ok (we all have memory slips). Just pause, take a moment and find a good starting point. DO NOT start at the beginning again.
- Keep internal commentary INTERNAL
  - “I am not as prepared as I want to be”, “Oops..”, etc...
  - No Deep Breathing, Over the top breathing before starting piece.
- If you make a mistake, show that you have the maturity and poise to forget about it and go on with confidence.

#### BE PREPARED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS

- Have your own thoughts about your future goals as a musician. Know WHY you are auditioning and be able to articulate that in a clear and concise manner. Take time to write these thoughts down

and even practice saying them outloud to yourself, family or friends. This will bring clarity not only to your WHY but also your delivery.

- Be ready to discuss your aspirations with the people for whom you are auditioning. You will make a much better impression if you have given some serious thought to what you want to accomplish.
- What are your career goals in music and percussion?
- What is your ideal job / gig?
- Why are you interested in the University of Utah?
- By answering these questions, you will also reveal the following:
  - Are you organized?
  - Do you have long-term goals?
  - Do you have some intellectual curiosity?
  - Do you have a positive attitude?
  - Will you be a good fit with this school?

### BE PREPARED TO ASK QUESTIONS

- In asking questions, be careful not to assume that you are admitted.
- If accepted, with whom will I be taking lessons?
- What playing opportunities are available to me?
- What are the school's percussion graduates doing currently?
- What degree program is suited to your goals?
- There are no bad questions so long as they are asked with a good attitude. If there isn't time to ask questions at the audition, find another opportunity. Reach out to faculty at a later time.

### AFTER THE AUDITION

- Congratulate yourself!
- A few details may remain in your mind, but the overall presentation has been strong and you have done your best.
- Send an e-mail to the professors thanking them for the opportunity to meet and play for them.