

Audition Requirements for Percussion Instruments

The Music Department at Towson University

Bachelor of Science in Music Education

Bachelor of Science in Music

Bachelor of Music in Composition

Bachelor of Music in Performance

Music Minor

Percussionists auditioning for the above degree programs must demonstrate proficiency in at least one of the following areas of percussion and have some experience and ability on the remainder. For scholarship consideration, preference will be given to students who are proficient in more than one area.

Snare Drum

- The 40 Percussive Arts Society International drum rudiments
- Concert and/or rudimental style etude, chosen from or comparable to the following:
 - Modern School for Snare Drum by Morris Goldenberg
 - Portraits in Rhythm by Anthony Cirone
 - Twelve Etudes for Snare Drum by Jacques Delecleuse
 - Rudiments in Rhythm by James Campbell
 - The Rudimental Cookbook by Edward Freytag
 - 14 Modern Contest Solos by John S. Pratt
- Sight-reading

Timpani

- Demonstrate ability to recognize intervals, match a given pitch, and tune various intervals
- One etude or solo chosen from or comparable to the following:
 - Modern Method for Timpani by Saul Goodman (section three, Ex. 60-73)
 - Fundamental Method for Timpani by Mitchell Peters (etudes #43-63)
 - Or, a solo using four drums; Beck, Bergamo, Cahn, Carter, Goodman, Firth

Keyboard Percussion (Marimba, Vibraphone, Xylophone)

- All major scales and arpeggios two octaves

- One etude or solo chosen from or comparable to the following:
 - Fundamental Method for Mallets Book 1 by Mitchell Peters
 - Modern School for Xylophone, Marimba, Vibraphone by Morris Goldenberg
 - Or a four-mallet solo by Abe, Gomez, Musser, Peters, Rosauero, Schmitt, Stout
- Sightreading

Drumset (optional)

Grooves:

- Swing at medium/medium up tempo at $\frac{1}{4}$ note = 120-180 for 8 bars
- Basic bossa nova at $\frac{1}{4}$ note = 110-130 for 8 bars
- Play a funk, rock or hip-hop pattern for 16 bars

Soloing: 16 bars of trading fours with yourself (alternate 4 bars soloing and 4 bars playing time) at medium tempo, metronome marking $\frac{1}{4}$ note = 120-160

Bachelor of Music in Jazz/Commercial Performance ***Bachelor of Music in Jazz/Commercial Composition***

Snare Drum

- The 40 Percussive Arts Society International drum rudiments
- Concert and/or rudimental style etude chosen from or comparable to the following:
 - Standard Snare Drum Method by Benjamin Podemski
 - Modern School for Snare Drum by Benjamin Podemski
 - Rudiments in Rhythm by James Campbell
 - Modern Rudimental Swing Solos by Charles Wilcoxon
 - 14 Modern Contest Solos by John S. Pratt
- Sightreading

Keyboard Percussion (Marimba, Vibraphone, Xylophone)

- All major scales and arpeggios two octaves
- Two octave chromatic scale
- Sightreading

Drumset

Grooves:

- Swing at slow tempo $\frac{1}{4}$ note = 74 for 8 bars
- Swing at medium/medium up tempo $\frac{1}{4}$ note = 120-180 for 8 bars

- Basic bossa nova at $\frac{1}{4}$ note = 110-130 for 8 bars
- Play a funk, rock, or hip-hop pattern for 16 bars
- 8 bars of ballad time, with brushes, at $\frac{1}{4}$ note = 64-70

Soloing: 16 bars of trading fours with yourself (alternate 4 bars soloing and 4 bars playing time) at medium swing tempo, metronome marking $\frac{1}{4}$ note = 120-160

Sightreading: Chosen from a standard big band drum chart

Optional: Prepared solo piece for drumset

Standards for Jazz Candidates

Candidates for the Bachelor of Music in Jazz/Commercial Performance are expected to demonstrate technical proficiency, musical expression and improvisational skills. Additionally, candidates must demonstrate the potential to succeed and excel in the field of music.

Candidates for the Bachelor of Music in Jazz/Commercial Composition must display evidence of promise as a creative composer. Additionally, candidates must demonstrate proficiency in at least one area of performance (must pass Department of Music audition in candidate's primary performance area). Composition candidates must submit a portfolio of completed compositions by October 1 for consideration for the spring semester and by February 1 for the fall semester. Details can be found on the Department of Music website on the composition web page.

It is expected that all Jazz applicants be prepared for the rigors of the music curriculum through dedicated and continued study of their primary instrument with a qualified private instructor provided by the university.