Audition Requirements for Percussion

The Department of Music at Towson University

For the 2021 application cycle to the Department of Music programs, applicants in Percussion will have the following options:

1) Preferred Option by the Department:
   a. Perform your audition live and on-campus on the audition day following all COVID-19 safety procedures.
      i. Negative Covid test result within ten days of the scheduled audition
      ii. Symptom tracking on at least four days leading up to the audition
      iii. Mask usage and other required PPE at the audition itself
      iv. Performance of the audition in a large room with adequate ventilation
      v. Space between auditions for air exchange and cleaning of instruments

2) Submit a video audition recording and attend a virtual interview and/or skills assessment with faculty from the Department of Music. In most cases, the virtual interview will occur on your selected audition day. Information regarding how to prepare your audition video and tips for success can be found on our website at https://www.towson.edu/cofac/departments/music/prospective/undergrad/.

3) Perform your audition live and virtually over Zoom on the audition day. Note that this option should be selected only if you are confident that you have high-speed and reliable internet connection.

Bachelor of Science in Music Education
Bachelor of Science in Music
Bachelor of Music in Composition
Bachelor of Music in Performance
Music Minor (performance track)

**Snare Drum**

- Demonstrate concert-style roll (start at piano, slow crescendo to forte, back to piano)
- Demonstrate these rudiments at various speeds and dynamics:
Double-stroke roll
5, 9 and 17 stroke rolls (alternating)
7-stroke rolls (not alternating)
Single paradiddles
Flams, flam taps and flam accents
Drag and single drag tap

- Solo or etude from Delecluse, Aleo, Peters, Whaley, Albright, Podemski, Goldenberg, Pratt, or equivalent
- Sight-reading

**Marimba or Xylophone**

- All major scales and arpeggios
- Solo, etude, or single movement from Bach, Rosauro, Abe, Goldenberg, Peters, Hatch, Stout, Ford, Gomez, or equivalent. Solos may be for 2, 3, or 4 mallets.
- Sight-reading

**Timpani**

- Demonstrate timpani roll (start at piano, slow crescendo to forte, back to piano) and general knowledge of tuning and timpani strokes
- Solo or etude from Hochrainer, Goodman, Firth, Beck Delecluse, Schinstine, Peters, Carter, Leonard, or equivalent
- Sight-reading

(Note: Students interested in the Bachelor of Music in Jazz/Commercial Performance or Jazz/Commercial Composition degrees should refer to the separate audition requirements for those degree programs.)

**Percussion Audition Tips**

- The repertoire suggestions are simply a guideline; you may select and perform any works you feel best demonstrate your technical and musical abilities.

- Select solos that allow you to emphasize performance quality – the difficulty of the pieces is not as important as how accurately and musically you perform it.

- You must bring all sticks, timpani mallets, and keyboard percussion mallets for your audition.

- Please bring one copy of your music for the auditioning committee.

If you have any questions about the auditions or would like to get feedback on your audition repertoire, please contact Dr. Michelle Humphreys. We want you to feel confident and to have a great audition.