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 submit videos of your solos and scales prior to your 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/. Skills such as sightreading and rudiments will take place live over Zoom on your selected audition day.

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)

If you are unable to access all required instruments to prepare and perform your audition due to the pandemic, exceptions can be made. To request an exception and discuss your individual situation and needs, please contact Michelle Humphreys in advance of your audition.

Solos (video)

- Snare drum solo or etude from Peters Intermediate or Advanced, Delecluse, Aleo, Whaley, Goldenberg, or equivalent

- Marimba, xylophone or vibraphone solo, etude, or single movement from Bach, Rosauro, Abe, Goldenberg, Hatch, Stout, Ford, Gomez or equivalent (solos may be for 2, 3, or 4 mallets)

- Timpani solo or etude from Goodman, Hochrainer, Woud, Firth, Beck, Carter, Leonard, or equivalent

Sight reading, scales + rudiments (live over Zoom on audition day)

- Melodic sight reading (on a keyboard percussion instrument, a piano, or electronic keyboard)
- Rhythmic sight reading (on snare drum or practice pad)
- Scales: Be prepared to play all major scales + arpeggios; you will be asked to play 3

- 5, 9 and 17-stroke rolls (alternating)
- 7-stroke rolls (non-alternating, either hand)
- Paradiddles
- Flams, flam taps, flam accents
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.

- Scan the music for your audition solos

- Create a YouTube link (be sure it is “unpublished”) of your audition solos

- Email the scanned music and the unpublished YouTube link(s) to mhumphreys@towson.edu

- We recognize that the above requirements may be difficult for some, and want all applicants to have the opportunity to audition, regardless of obstacles. Please reach out as far in advance as possible to discuss any concerns you may have, so we can customize each audition as needed.

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

Dr. Michelle Humphreys, Percussion Coordinator  
mhumphreys@towson.edu  
410-704-2833