

2008/2009

Dear Percussionists:

In preparation for your upcoming audition for admission to the Department of Music at Rowan University, I thought it might be beneficial to let you know exactly what will be expected of you at the time of your audition.

All students are required to perform and demonstrate technical ability on snare drum, mallets (marimba, xylophone or vibes), timpani and drum set. This requirement is the same regardless of your intended major: Music Education, Music Performance or Jazz Studies. The students auditioning for the jazz studies program will be expected to demonstrate a much higher level of drum set ability than students auditioning for the other majors. **Jazz candidates will also be asked to play jazz time while singing aloud one chorus of Satin Doll (Ellington). Then solo for one full chorus while keeping the form and melody recognizable throughout.**

Every student will be asked to demonstrate the rudiments, scales and technical exercises listed in the enclosed sheets, as well as prepared solos on snare drum, mallets and timpani. On drum set, you will be asked to demonstrate styles in straight ahead jazz, rock/funk and Latin. You will be asked to trade fours in one of these styles. Applicants to the Jazz Studies major will be asked to trade fours in all the styles listed.

If you have not yet selected your solo pieces, you may choose from the solos listed in this packet. Select the piece which best reflects your level of ability on each of the percussion instruments. This decision should be made in consultation with your private teacher or band director.

All auditionees are required to provide their own copies of the audition music, as well as, the appropriate sticks/mallets for each instrument.

Feel free to call me with any questions 856-256-4500 x3546 or e-mail witten@rowan.edu.

Best of luck

Dean Witten
Professor of Percussion
Director of Percussion Studies

Percussion Audition Information

Updated 2008

Snare Drum

Demonstrate the following rudiments from slow to fast to slow:

double stroke roll

5-stroke roll

7-stroke roll

9-stroke roll

13-stroke roll

17-stroke roll

flam

flam tap

flamacue

single paradiddle

double paradiddle

flam paradiddle

ruffs

single ratamacue

double ratamacue

triple ratamacue

Play this example:



Choose a solo piece from one of the following snare drum methods.

Cirone, Portraits in Rhythm. publisher, Belwin Mills

Goldenberg, Modern School for the Snare Drum. publisher, Chappell Music Co.

Delecluse, Twelve Studies for the Snare Drum. publisher, Alfonse LeDuc

Mallet Instruments

Demonstrate all major scales 2 octaves.

Demonstrate all harmonic minor scales 2 octaves.

Demonstrate all major/minor arpeggios 2 octaves

Choose one of the following solo pieces for marimba.

Peters, Yellow After The Rain. publisher, Mitchell Peters Publications. grade 4+

Musser, Etude in C Major. publisher, Studio 4 Publications. grade 5+

Smadbeck, Rhythm Song. publisher, Contemporary Music Project. grade 5+

O'Meara, Restless. publisher, Marimba Productions. grade 4+

**note. These pieces are written for marimba. If you wish to perform on vibraphone or xylophone, please choose a piece of comparable difficulty at grade 4+ or higher.

Timpani

Demonstrate the following:

1. Tune the following intervals: perfect 4th, perfect 5th, octave, major 3rd, minor 3rd.
2. Roll legato from one drum to the other back and forth across the 4 timpani.

Choose one of the following solo pieces for timpani.

Firth, The Solo Timpanist. publisher, Carl Fischer Music. grade 4-5
Mancini, Suite for Timpani. publisher, Kendor Music. grade 5
Mancini, Suite #2 for Timpani. publisher Kendor Music. grade 4
Beck, Sonata for Timpani. publisher, Boston Music. grade 5
Beck, 10 Intermediate Timpani Solos. publisher, Kendor Music. grade 3-4

Drumset

Demonstrate the following:

1. Rock/funk feel
2. Jazz/swing feel
3. Latin feel (bossa nova, samba or mambo)
4. Trade 4's in **one** of the above styles (4 bars time...4 bars solo...4 bars time...etc)

Applicants to the jazz major must demonstrate:

1. all items listed above
2. trade 4's in rock, swing, and Latin feels
3. Satin Doll. **Play jazz time while singing aloud one chorus of Satin Doll. Then solo one full chorus while keeping the form and melody recognizable throughout.**

All music listed, as well as sticks and mallets can be purchased from:

Steve Weiss Music
2324 Wyandotte Rd.
Willow Grove, PA 19090
215-659-0100