

Percussion - Audition Requirements

Undergraduate

If you are auditioning for UCM Music and you wish to declare percussion/drums as your primary instrument, you must perform **two** prepared selections as part of your audition; three or more are recommended to maximize scholarship consideration. An outline of percussion areas and potential repertoire you might choose is provided on the second page of this document; this list is not exclusive, which means you can choose your own pieces/tunes to play at your audition.

You may also be asked to perform select **scales**, **sight reading**, and **demonstrate basic aural skills** depending on your intended music major. In terms of aural skills, you may be asked to match a pitch played for you on a piano, and then to sing a related interval.

Please contact Dr. Smith (jasmith@ucmo.edu) with any questions about your audition!

Minimum Audition Requirements by Intended Major

Music Education (BME)

- Prepared Pieces
 - Perform a snare drum solo and a keyboard solo.
 - You are strongly encouraged to prepare a third selection or more in other percussion areas (see list below).
- Scales
 - Chromatic and major scales
- Sight Reading
 - Keyboard and snare drum (required); chart and lead sheet reading (optional)

BM Performance

- Prepared Pieces
 - Perform a snare drum solo and a keyboard solo.
 - You are strongly encouraged to prepare a third selection or more in other percussion areas (see list below).
- Scales
 - Chromatic, all major scales, and all melodic minor scales
- Sight Reading
 - Keyboard and snare drum (required); chart and lead sheet reading (optional)

BM Music Technology and Commercial Music, Bachelor of Arts, Music Minors, and non-music majors

- Prepared Pieces

- Choose any two percussion areas for your audition (see list below), or you can prepare two selections in the same area (ex: you could prepare two drumset selections, such as two drum covers where you play along with recordings).
- Scales, if comfortable
 - Chromatic and major scales
- Sight Reading
 - Choose between keyboard, snare drum, drumset chart, or lead sheet reading

Percussion Areas and Examples of Audition Repertoire

- Snare Drum Solo
 - Concert ex: [Peters](#), [Cirone](#), [Delecluse](#)
 - Rudimental ex: [Wilcoxin](#), [Pratt](#), [Freytag](#)
- Keyboard Solo (Two mallets or four mallets)
 - Ex: [Bach](#), [Abe](#), [Green](#), [Quartier](#), [Davila](#), [Ford](#), [Gaines](#)
- Timpani Solo or Etude
 - Ex: [Hochrainer](#), [Carroll](#), [Goodman](#)
- Drumset
 - Demonstration of styles
 - Demonstrate time and feel, color changes, marking the form, fills, and soloing within the style
 - Examples of styles you could choose to demonstrate: Medium swing, fast swing, samba/bossa nova, Afro-Cuban, rock, funk
 - Drum Cover
 - Play drumset along with a recording that you enjoy
 - Examples: tunes by Stevie Wonder, Slipknot, Taylor Swift, and more.
- Tonal Improvisation
 - Demonstrate time, feel, form, comping, and soloing on a blues, rhythm changes, or a tune/style of your choice
- Percussion from Around the World
 - Ex: Brazilian pandeiro, Cuban congas, Ghanaian gyil, Irish bodhrán
 - Demonstrate understanding of the practice musically, socially, culturally, and historically

Supplementary Materials

- You are invited to submit optional supplementary materials as YouTube links, audio/video files, or printed or digital copies of scores. Examples of supplementary materials include:
 - Recordings of multiple percussion performances
 - Recordings of percussion ensemble/combo playing
 - Proof of experience with composing/arranging
 - Proof of experience with music technology

Master of Arts

Candidates interested in auditioning for a Master of Arts with an instrumental (percussion) emphasis should contact Prof. Smith (jasmith@ucmo.edu) and the graduate advisor, Dr. Frank Fenley (fenley@ucmo.edu), for audition requirements and information. A list of recommended repertoire and audition components is provided below:

- Concert Snare Drum Solo
 - Ex: Vinson, Cirone, Delecluse
- Rudimental Snare Drum Solo
 - Ex: Wilcoxin, Pratt
- Keyboard Solos
 - Ex: Bach, Druckman, Miki, Sammut, Abe
- Timpani Solo or Etude
 - Ex: Hochrainer, Carroll
- Excerpts
- Multi Percussion
 - Please send a link to a performance online
- Drumset Styles
 - Ex: Medium swing, fast swing, samba/bossa nova, Afro-Cuban, rock, funk
 - Demonstrate time and feel, color changes, marking the form, fills, and soloing within the style
 - You may also play along with a track
- Tonal Improvisation
 - Blues, rhythm changes, or a tune/style of your choice
 - Demonstrate time, feel, form, comping, and soloing
- Percussion from Around the World
 - Ex: Brazilian pandeiro, Cuban congas, Ghanaian gyil, Irish bodhrán
 - Demonstrate understanding of the practice musically, socially, culturally, and historically
- Proof of Composition/Arrangement
- Proof of Experience with Marching Percussion
- Proof of Experience with Music Tech
- Timpani Tuning
- Sight reading (Snare drum, marimba, drumset chart, and/or lead sheet)