

Percussion - Audition Requirements

Undergraduate

1. Two prepared selections; three recommended. BME candidates are required to perform a snare drum solo and a keyboard solo. BM Jazz-Commercial candidates must demonstrate drumset, tonal improvisation, and/or “World” percussion as one of their two required selections. BM Performance candidates can choose any two areas for their audition and are strongly encouraged to prepare a third. Music Minors, BA, BM Music Technology, and other major candidates can choose any two areas for their audition, or they may prepare two selections on the same area (ex: two drumset selections). Though examples of appropriate audition materials are provided below, candidates may choose their own repertoire. Please contact Dr. Smith (jasmith@ucmo.edu) with questions about your audition repertoire selections.
 - Snare Drum Solo
 - Concert Ex: Peters, Cirone, Delecluse
 - Rudimental Ex: Wilcoxin, Pratt, Savage
 - Keyboard Solo (Two mallets or four mallets)
 - Ex: Bach, Green, Quartier, Ford, Davila, Abe
 - Timpani Solo or Etude
 - Ex: Hochrainer, Carroll, Goodman
 - 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
2. Rudiments
 - Ex: The 40 PAS International Drum Rudiments
 - These may or may not be requested depending on the candidate’s prepared piece selections
3. Scales
 - Music Minor, BA, BME, BM Music Tech, and other major candidates
 - A two-octave chromatic scale (memorized) and up to two major scales (memorized) chosen by the faculty from the following list: C, G, D, A, E, F, B-flat, E-flat, and A-flat

- BM Performance and BM Jazz-Commercial
 - A two-octave chromatic scale (memorized) and up to four additional scales (memorized) chosen by the faculty members from the following lists:
 - All major scales
 - All melodic minor scales
- 4. Timpani Tuning or Aural Skills
 - Candidates will match pitches played for them by tuning on the timpani or singing aloud
 - Candidates will tune on the timpani or sing aloud each individual note of a chord played for them on the piano
- 5. Sight Reading
 - Music Minor, BA, BM Music Tech, and other majors
 - Keyboard, snare drum, drumset chart, or lead sheet reading
 - BM Performance and BME
 - Keyboard and snare drum (required); drumset chart and lead sheet reading (optional)
 - BM Jazz-Commercial
 - Drumset chart or lead sheet reading (required); keyboard and snare drum (optional)
- 6. Supplementary Materials (optional)
 - Multiple Percussion
 - Percussion Ensemble/Combo Playing
 - Proof of Experience with Composing/Arranging
 - Proof of Experience with Music Tech

****Supplementary materials may be submitted to Prof. Smith before or during the candidate's audition. Acceptable formats include YouTube videos, audio files, hard copies of scores, etc.**

****UCM will not provide an accompanist, though candidates can bring one if they desire; Prof. Smith must be notified in advance should a candidate plan to do so. Each audition will last 12 minutes, therefore it is requested that candidates move quickly between the pieces they have prepared. Candidates are expected to provide their own sticks, mallets, and music; they must also provide at least one additional paper or easily accessible electronic copy of the music they will perform for the faculty audition panel to view.**

Master of Arts

Candidates interested in auditioning for a Master of Arts with an instrumental (percussion) emphasis should contact Prof. Smith 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)