

# Percussion Auditions at Radford University

Greetings,

Thank you for your interest in the percussion program at Radford University. Below you will find the audition literature we ask you to prepare in advance of your audition, as well as some helpful tips on the audition process itself. Please take some time to look around the website, there are audio and video clips, as well as a portion of the percussion curriculum that the percussion students study under here at Radford. There is also a calendar of music related events if you wish to plan a visit. If you have any questions, please contact me through my school email address.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rob Sanderl

Director of Percussion for Radford

[rsanderl@radford.edu](mailto:rsanderl@radford.edu)

## Percussion Audition Requirements

Please prepare solos representing the following areas of percussion.

### Snare Drum

40 International Rudiments- available at PAS.org for free

Perform 1 Rudimental Snare Drum Solo or Concert Solo

Suggested Books:

Modern Swing Solos for the Advanced Snare Drummer- Wilcoxon

14 Modern Contest Solos- John Pratt

Portraits in Rhythm- Anthony Cirone

Modern School for Snare Drum- Morris Goldenberg

### Mallets

All Major Scales- 2 Octaves with Arpeggios

Perform 1 Mallet Solo- either 2 or 4 mallet (4 mallets is encouraged)

Suggested Books/Solos:

Recital Pieces for Mallets- Garwood Whaley (2 Mall.)

Musser Ab- Clair Omar Musser (2 Mall.)

Sea Refractions- Mitchell Peters (4 Mall.)

Yellow After the Rain- Mitchell Peters (4 Mall.)

Rain Song- Alice Gomez (4 Mall.)

## **Timpani**

### **Perform One Timpani Solo**

#### **Suggested Books/Solos**

**Concepts for Timpani- John Beck- Solos in Back of Book**

**Fundamental Studies for Timpani- Mitchell Peters**

**Triptych Motif- John Beck**

**Sonata for Timpani- John Beck**

**Additional skills may be demonstrated, such as drum set or hand drums.**

## **Audition Tips**

**If music is something you are considering pursuing in college, try to get an early start on preparing for the audition experience. First, get to know the school you are auditioning for, focusing on specifics related to the percussion department. If audition requirements are not made available online, then it is important to contact someone within the music school to find out the necessary information.**

**The best way to prepare for a college audition is with the assistance of a private instructor who is familiar with audition literature and practices. However, if this is not possible, here are some tips that should make the process a little more efficient and less stressful.**

**If private instruction is not an option, then use your school music teacher as a resource. Even if your teacher is not a specialist in your particular instrument area, they will have connections to someone who is, and will ultimately be capable of retrieving important information on your behalf.**

**Try and select music far in advance of the audition date. You want to make sure that you give yourself plenty of time to learn the literature you are to audition with, and most importantly become comfortable with its performance. Once you learn your audition solos, perform them as often as possible for as many people as possible. Play for your parents, siblings, teachers, and especially your musical peers, as these are often times the most difficult people to perform for. For practice, try playing the solos one after another in a different order each time, since you may not be given the choice of which to play first at the actual audition.**

**Decide what you are going to wear for the audition, and do some practice performances wearing those clothes. Anything you can do in advance to make the actual audition more familiar is good. Also, it is important to make sure your clothing selection does not interfere with your ability to perform (like sticks getting caught in shirt sleeves).**

**Try and arrive at the school the day before the audition. Take some time to go to the music complex and see where the audition will take place. You may even get the opportunity to meet some current percussion students who may be able to inform you on specifics to the program and professor. This is very important, as it makes the audition site familiar and not shocking or confusing the day of the audition. The mornings of auditions are hectic, with people everywhere, most of whom unaware of where they should be and what they should be doing. This just makes the stress worse.**

**Eat a good meal the night before, something light and not greasy. Pasta is a good idea. Then, have a good breakfast the next morning, again not too greasy (lay off the bacon). You will be nervous and feel that your appetite is limited, but have something. Orange Juice is good, as well as bananas.**

**The night before should be relaxing and not filled with constant thoughts of the following day. Here is the truth; if you are not ready the night before, then one last night of stress and tension will not change anything. Perhaps see a movie after dinner, or take a walk around town. Save the walk around campus for after the audition. If you hang around the school you will continue to think only about the following day.**

**Most importantly, remember that everyone is in the same situation at an audition. Everybody there is hoping for the best. Ultimately, you can only do the very best you can, and when the day is over that is what is most important. However, going into the situation with a plan never hurts. Good luck, and happy practicing.**