

2018-2019 Drumline/Front Ensemble Auditions

The auditions will take place on May 19th. Preparedness and confidence will help you have a strong audition. Remember that no matter what instrument you are placed on, it is the instrument that the instructors feel will make you and the group most successful. Please note that the instructors may ask you to play on several instruments even if you only indicate one as an interest.

Front ensemble auditionees will prepare the Bb, and Eb Major Scales, Eights, and Bucks with both the alternating sticking and octaves.

Drumline auditionees will prepare Eights, Bucks, Pats, and the 16th note accent Grid on their chosen instrument(s). Bass auditionees should prepare the exercises as unison. Tenor auditionees should prepare the splits to the exercises, as well as the snare part on drum 2. **All** exercises must be performed while marking time.

You may try out for up to three different instruments, one of which **must** be a mallet instrument.

You may use music at the audition. Though all exercises and music will need to be memorized later in the summer, no penalties will be incurred for using music at the audition.

Remember that we are more impressed by technique, accuracy, and approach to the drum, rather than how fast you think you can play the exercises. Speed will not gain you any "bonus points."

The directors may ask you to try another instrument during the audition to see you on multiple different instruments.

In addition to the warm-ups, you will find detailed descriptions of what we are looking for in the the auditions for each instrument to further assist your preparation.

SMB Drumline and Front Ensemble Audition Guidelines **(What we're looking for)**

Snare Drum:

- **Proper grip and technique** - Hand/arm angles, fulcrums on both hands, relaxed fingers, proper distribution of fingers/wrist/arm at applicable heights, fluid motion.
- **Good sound quality** - Push air through the drum at all heights using maximum velocity to activate snare strainers.
- **TAP CONTROL** - Ability to control the stick at tap heights (3" and below), *especially* following accents.
- **Knowledge of all materials as directed** - If it was printed and handed to you, you should know how to play it.

Tenor Drums:

- **Proper grip and technique** - Hand/arm angles, fulcrums on both hands, relaxed fingers, proper distribution of fingers/wrist/arm at applicable heights, fluid motion.
- **Good sound quality** - Obtain characteristic tenor sound by playing through the head with maximum velocity
- **TAP CONTROL** - Ability to control the stick at tap heights (3" and below), *especially* following accents.
- **Ability to move around drums in proper playing positions** - All around patterns as directed with minimal movement (Conservation of energy)
- **Knowledge of all materials as directed** - If it was printed and handed to you, you should know how to play it.

Bass Drums:

- **Proper grip and technique** - Hand/arm angles, fulcrums on both hands, relaxed fingers, proper distribution of fingers/wrist/arm at applicable heights, fluid motion.
- **Good sound quality** - Locate the center of the drum and keep mallets there. Move the air through the drum to produce a good full-body tone.
- **COUNTING ABILITY** - Be able to effectively count eighth notes, sixteenth notes and triplets, and be able to isolate counts by playing split parts of exercises.
- **Knowledge of all materials as directed** - If it was printed and handed to you, you should know how to play it.

Marimba:

- **Proper grip and technique** - Hand/arm angles, keeping hands low to the keyboard, GOOD FULL STROKES (Piston Stroke), fulcrum in back of hand, no fingers moving with the mallet
- **Sound Quality** - Good wrist rotation at maximum velocity with proper piston strokes to produce excellent sound quality
- **Ability to read treble AND bass clefs** - Marimba music is written in both treble and bass clefs. Knowledge of both is incredibly helpful
- **Knowledge of all materials as directed** - If it was printed and handed to you, you should know how to play it.