

## Xavier University Percussion Audition Guidelines

The world of percussion is extremely diverse and requires current percussionists to master a wide range of instruments and musical styles. At Xavier University, we study a comprehensive range of percussion instruments and strive to achieve a high level of accomplishment in a diversity of musical styles so that students are prepared to meet a myriad of professional opportunities upon graduation. This diversity is reflected in our audition requirements. Applicants are required to perform a selection from each of the three following boldfaced categories as outlined below (1. Snare Drum, 2. Keyboard Percussion, 3. Timpani, Multiple Percussion, or Drumset):

**Snare Drum:** Applicants are *required to perform from at least one* of the following styles, but are encouraged to choose two works that demonstrate both styles if they are able. Various rudiments may also be asked at the audition.

- a) One concert style snare drum solo or etude  
Examples might include works by Cirone, Peters, Goldenberg, Delecluse, etc.
- b) One rudimental style snare solo or etude  
Examples might include works by Wilcoxon, Pratt, Campbell, Thompkins, Wannamaker, Markovich, etc.

**Keyboard Percussion** (Marimba, Vibraphone, Xylophone, Bells): Applicants are *required to perform from at least one* of the following areas, but are encouraged to choose two works that demonstrate both options if they are able. Various scales (2 octaves) may also be asked at the audition.

- a) One solo or etude for 2 mallets  
Examples might include works by Goldenberg, Creston, McMillan, Green, Whaley, etc.
- b) One solo or etude for 4 mallets  
Examples might include works by Peters, Ford, Zeltsman, Stevens, Stout, Abe, Sammut, etc.

**Timpani, Multiple Percussion, or Drumset:** Applicants are *required to perform from at least one* of the following areas, and are invited to perform from more than one if they choose to. Various technical requests may be asked at the audition.

- a) One solo or etude for timpani  
Examples might include works by Carter, Vic Firth, Goodman, Hochrainer, Beck, Cahn, Peters, Kraft, etc.
- b) One solo or etude for multiple percussion  
Examples might include works by Kraft, Udow, Cirone, Campbell, etc.
- c) One solo or etude and a demonstration of various styles and fills on drumset  
Examples might include works by Soph, Houghton, Chapin, Houllif, Brown, Fink, etc.

## Notes for Percussion Auditionees

The suggested examples are just that- merely suggestions. You don't need to play works by any of the noted composers. We love to hear all different kinds of music and even things that we've never heard before! Choose repertoire that best displays your most accomplished and deepest level of musicianship, but is not beyond your current ability level. Although we look favorably on students that prepare beyond the minimum requirements, please keep in mind that the most important thing about your performance audition is not what you play, but **how well you play it**. In other words, choose repertoire that you are confident and comfortable performing. We want you to be your very best. Believe it or not, we are all rooting for you!

We suggest that you get input from a musical mentor such as a percussion instructor, band director, or other private lesson teacher in your preparation for an audition at the university level.

At Xavier, all of our student percussionists are grounded in fundamentals and exposed to a wide range of percussion, including world percussion, orchestral percussion and timpani, solo mallet percussion, cutting edge chamber music, electroacoustic percussion, marching percussion, drumset, and multiple percussion. We regularly commission new works, such as our recent regional premier of Steven Gorbos' *Aqua Vitae*, and we host a roster of great guest artists and clinicians, that has included Grammy award winning drummer, Antonio Sanchez, Principal Percussionist of the CSO, David Fishlock, Bands of America and Drum Corps International Hall of Fame member, Jim Campbell, and co-founder of So Percussion ensemble, Tim Feeney, among many others. Additionally, Cincinnati offers numerous musical opportunities and we are located a short drive from Indianapolis, the site of the Percussive Arts Society's International Convention (PASIC), where we maintain an active profile.

If you will be applying to Xavier University as a percussionist, feel free to reach out to me, Brady Harrison ([harrisonw@xavier.edu](mailto:harrisonw@xavier.edu)), for more information. I am happy to answer questions, and to set up an introductory lesson to give you some input on your audition preparation. Our percussion area functions as a family, and we have a culture built on helping one another. If you go to my website, [www.bradyharrisonpercussion.com](http://www.bradyharrisonpercussion.com), you will find more information about me, and footage of Xavier's percussion ensemble (under the "media" drop down menu) which includes performances of several of our student created arrangements from our annual "Pop Goes Percussion" concert! We pride ourselves on maintaining a vibrant percussion studio that produces students that go on to do great things in the world of music.

Again, feel free to reach out with any questions or to request a complimentary lesson. All are welcome. I look forward to meeting you, and best of luck in your audition!

Brady Harrison

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