

2010-2011 Audition Information

Percussion - Philharmonic



1. Solo pieces

You are required to prepare solo pieces on the xylophone and the snare drum (included in packet). Your solo piece need not be memorized.

With your solo and/or your prepared excerpt(s), you may be asked to play it again in a different manner (slower, faster, more lyrically, etc.). Please regard this as evidence of your musical flexibility, which will weigh heavily on the success of your audition.

Required percussion solo repertoire for the Philharmonic Orchestra level:

Xylophone: Goldenberg, Melodies in 6/8 Time, Moderato
Snare drum: Goldenberg, "Roll Exercise in 2/4" (pg. 44, Modern School for Snare Drum)

2. Excerpts

Attached are prepared excerpts on the xylophone and snare drum. If you are unfamiliar with the excerpt, consult with your private teacher or a coach who is familiar with them. It is recommended that you also listen to a recording or live performance of the piece in order to give yourself proper tempo and musical context. Prepare the excerpt closest to your ability level; check the Repertory and Symphony percussion audition packets for a comparison.

3. Scales & technique

Scales: All required scales must be memorized. Automatically play the corresponding arpeggios to a scale, if required. You must be able to play the following scales on the xylophone: ALL major scales and the following natural minor scales: a, d, e, g, b, c, and fG. All scales are to be played from memory. Practice your scales on an actual xylophone so you will be prepared.

Technique: SNARE LONG ROLL: The long roll tests your ability to sustain an even, concert-style (buzz) roll with extreme dynamic changes steadily over several seconds and in the appropriate time. The roll will be directed by one of the judges. TIMPANI TUNING: This part of the audition will test your ability to hear a given pitch and adjust the tuning of the timpani to match it. You will be given fifteen seconds to match the pitch (in a lower octave) from the pitch given to you. You will be instructed as to which drum to use for the given pitch. More than one pitch may be requested.

4. Sight-reading

Sight-reading for all orchestras will include complex rhythms relative to the level of the orchestra. Feel free to tell the conductor which orchestra you are trying out for. Sight-reading for Philharmonic-level percussion will be on the xylophone and snare drum. Rhythms will consist of standard note values as small as eighth notes and may include triplets or dotted note values.

5. Orchestra placement

Student placement is competitive and is ranked in order of artistic quality. Those qualities include superiority of tone, intonation, vibrato (as appropriate), dynamic range, musicality and general accuracy. Although a student may be able to perform all the requirements for a particular orchestra, he or she may still not qualify based on the level of competition in a given year.

6. Auditions are closed to the public, including parents and families.

7. Prior participation in the Minnesota Youth Symphonies is no guarantee of placement.

**FOR ADDITIONAL AUDITION TIPS, REFER TO THE AUDITIONS PAGE AT WWW.MNYOUTHSYMPHONIES.ORG.
Questions? Call (651) 699-5811 or e-mail mys@mnyouthsymphonies.org.**

What to bring

- solo and excerpt music provided in this booklet
- xylophone mallets, snare sticks, timpani mallets

What not to bring

- wood or hard plastic mallets (we are in a small room, so medium-soft or hard rubber mallets would be best)
- personal instruments or stands, including snare drums — we are on a very tight schedule, and in order to move as quickly as possible, we will require all candidates to use the instruments already in the room

What is provided

- extra music; if you have markings in your own music, you should bring your own copy
- mallets and sticks, but we encourage you to bring what you are used to using
- 3-1/2 octave rosewood xylophone (Yamaha)
- glockenspiel (Deagan)
- 5x14" aluminum snare drum, cable and wire snares (Pearl)
- set of two timpani, copper, balanced action pedals (Yamaha)
- music stands
- tuning fork (A=440)

Warm-up room

There will be a warm-up room that you will be allowed to use ten minutes prior to your audition. There will be a 3-1/2 octave kelon xylophone and a 5x14" metal snare drum in the room. Timpani will NOT be available in the warm-up room.

Required Solos: Philharmonic

Xylophone: Melodies in 6/8 Time, Moderato by Goldenberg

Tempo: ♩ = 132

Required Solos: Philharmonic

Snare: "Roll Exercise in 2/4" by Goldenberg (p. 44, Modern School for Snare Drum)

Tempo: ♩ = 120

The image displays a page of musical notation for a snare drum exercise. It consists of 11 staves of music, all written in bass clef with a 2/4 time signature. The notation is a single melodic line for the snare drum, featuring a variety of rhythmic patterns and articulations. The first staff begins with a series of quarter notes, some beamed together and some with slurs. The second staff continues with similar quarter-note patterns, including some eighth-note pairs. The third staff introduces eighth-note patterns, with some notes beamed in pairs. The fourth staff features a more complex eighth-note pattern, with some notes beamed in groups of four. The fifth staff continues with eighth-note patterns, including some notes with accents. The sixth staff introduces a pattern of eighth notes with slurs, followed by a measure with a fermata. The seventh staff continues with eighth-note patterns, including some notes with slurs. The eighth staff features a pattern of eighth notes with slurs, followed by a measure with a fermata. The ninth staff continues with eighth-note patterns, including some notes with slurs. The tenth staff features a pattern of eighth notes with slurs, followed by a measure with a fermata. The eleventh staff concludes the exercise with a final pattern of eighth notes and a fermata.

Required Excerpts: Philharmonic

Xylophone: Carnival of the Animals, No. 12 Fossiles, by Saint-Saëns – beginning to rehearsal 2

Tempo: ♩ = 116

Allegro ridicolo ♩ = 116
(strings) *ff*

1

2

(clarinet)

4 8 9

Detailed description: This musical score is for the beginning of 'Fossiles' from Saint-Saëns' 'Carnival of the Animals'. It is in 3/4 time and marked 'Allegro ridicolo' with a tempo of 116 beats per minute. The first three staves are for strings, starting with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. The fourth staff is for the clarinet, featuring a melodic line with a first ending bracketed '1' and a second ending bracketed '2'. The clarinet part includes a 4-measure rest followed by an 8-measure rest, and ends with a 9-measure rest.

Required Excerpts: Philharmonic

Snare: Concerto for Orchestra, mvt II, by Bartok – m. 1-9 and m. 252-end

Tempo: ♩ = 94

* (without snares)

mf

9 7 17 7

(timpani)

mf

252

mf *dim.*

258

p *pp*

Detailed description: This musical score is for the snare drum part of Bartok's 'Concerto for Orchestra', second movement. It is in 3/4 time and marked 'mf'. The first staff shows a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents, marked '* (without snares)'. The second staff shows a melodic line for the timpani, with measures 9, 7, 17, and 7 indicated by brackets. The dynamic is *mf*. The third staff starts at measure 252 and shows a melodic line with a dynamic of *mf* that gradually decreases to *dim.* The fourth staff starts at measure 258 and shows a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents, marked *p* and *pp*.