

# 2021-2022 Audition Information

## Percussion

### Philharmonic & Wind Orchestra



#### AUDITION SITE DETAILS

##### **What to bring**

- solo and excerpt music provided in this packet
- 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)
- 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 melon xylophone and a 5x14" metal snare drum in the room. Timpani will NOT be available in the warm-up room.

#### PERCUSSION AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

##### **1. Solo Piece**

You are required to prepare a solo piece 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 & Wind Orchestra** level:

Snare Drum: *Roll Exercise in 2/4* from *Modern School for Snare*

Xylophone: *Short Melody* from *Modern School for Xylophone*

##### **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.

Required percussion excerpts for the **Philharmonic & Wind Orchestra** level:

Xylophone: *Gayne Ballet, Dance of the Maidens* by Khachaturian

Snare Drum: *Peter and the Wolf* by Prokofiev

(continued)

### **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 & Wind-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.**

***Due to COVID-19, in-person auditions are subject to change and may move to Zoom if needed. Please see [mnyouthsymphonies.org/auditions](https://mnyouthsymphonies.org/auditions) for the most up-to-date information.***

**Questions? Call (651) 699-5811 or e-mail [mys@mnyouthsymphonies.org](mailto:mys@mnyouthsymphonies.org).**

**Philharmonic Snare Solo**  
Roll Exercise in 2/4 from *Modern School for Snare*  
Tempo: ♩ = 100

**ROLL EXERCISE IN 2/4**

The musical score is written in bass clef with a 2/4 time signature. It consists of 12 staves of music. The first staff begins with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature of 2/4. The exercise is a roll exercise, characterized by continuous rhythmic patterns. The first few staves feature eighth notes and quarter notes, often with slurs and accents. The middle staves introduce sixteenth notes and triplets, maintaining the rhythmic intensity. The final staves conclude with a variety of rhythmic figures, including eighth notes and quarter notes, ending with a double bar line.

**Philharmonic Xylophone Solo**

*Short Melody from Modern School for Xylophone*

Tempo: ♩ = 60

**Scherzo**

1

*mf* L L L L

*pp* L L

*mf*

**Philharmonic Snare Excerpt**  
*Peter and the Wolf* by Prokofiev

**PETER AND THE WOLF (Ex. 9)**

Field Drum

Serge Prokofiev

49 *L'istesso tempo* (♩ = 100)

Tamb. mil. *ff*

T. mil. *fp* *f*

50

T. mil. *ff*

T. mil. *fp* *f*

Philharmonic Xylophone Excerpt  
Gayne Ballet, Dance of the Maidens by Khachaturian

**GAYNE BALLET**  
Dance of the Rose Maidens

XYLOPHONE

By Aram Khachaturian

Allegro (♩ = 120) ①

4 *mf*

② *p*

③ 5 1 *f* *f*

④ 3 *mf* *cresc.* *f* 1

⑤ *p*

⑥ 10 ⑦ 10 ⑧ *f*

*pp* *cresc.*

*cresc.* *ff*