

# 2020-2021 Audition Information

## Percussion - Repertory 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 four timpani, copper, balanced action pedals (Ludwig)
- 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 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 pieces**

You are required to prepare solo pieces on the xylophone, snare drum & timpani (attached). Your solo piece need not be memorized. For your timpani solo, a set of 4 timpani will be provided. You will be given 60 seconds to tune the timpani before you begin playing, using a standard A=440 pitch tuning fork (provided) for your reference pitch. Pitch-pipes and electronic tuners will not be allowed. Tuning gauges will be covered at the audition.

With your solo and/or your prepared excerpt(s), you may be asked to play it again in a different manner (slower, aster, 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 **Repertory Orchestra** level:

Xylophone: *Etude XX* by Goldenberg

Snare Drum: *Etude in 4/4* by Modern School for Snare Dream

Timpani: *Exercise No. 45* by Modern Method for Timpani

#### **2. Excerpts**

Attached are prepared excerpts on the bells and snare drum. If you are unfamiliar with the excerpts, 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.

Required excerpts for the **Repertory Orchestra** level:

Xylophone: *Gayne Ballet: Sabre Dance* by Khachaturian

Snare drum: *Third Symphony* by Schuman

(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 in 2 octaves: All the major scales in all keys and natural minor scales, as well as the melodic and harmonic minor scales in the keys of a, d, e, g and b. 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.

**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 Repertory will be on both the xylophone and snare drum. Rhythms will consist of standard note values as small as sixteenth notes and may include triplets or dotted note values. Rolls may be included.

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

# Repertory Xylophone Solo

Vivace

*f* L

LR  
r r l r l l r

L L

RLR LRL R R L

RLR L R R R R L R R RLR

r r l l l r l r l r r l R R L R L RLR

L L L LRLR L L R R L R RL

RLR LRL R R LRL L R R L R R

R R RL R RL R RL R RL R RL R RL R RL

R R L R L R

# Repertory Orchestra Snare Solo

Etude in 5/4, pg. 64 Modern School for Snare Drum

This musical score is a snare drum solo in 5/4 time, consisting of 11 staves of music. The notation is written in bass clef and includes various dynamic markings and rhythmic patterns. The dynamics range from *pp* (pianissimo) to *ff* (fortissimo). The score features several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' in a circle) and accents (indicated by a wedge symbol). The music is characterized by complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth and thirty-second notes, and rests. The overall structure is a continuous piece of music with varying intensity and rhythmic complexity.

# Timpani Exercise

Goodman- exercise 45, Modern Method for Tympani

In Ab & Db Exercise 45

Allegro ♩ = 92

*f* R L R R L R L L

*p* R L R L ⊗ R L R R  
L L R L L R

*f* L R L L R L R L ⊗ R L R R  
R R L R

L R L R L R L R L R R

L L R L L R L R L ⊗ R L R L R

3 3 3 3



# Excerpts: Repertory

Xylophone: Khachaturian, Gayne Ballet, Sabre Dance

## PETROUCHKA Ballet Suite

BELLS (Xylophone)

By Igor Stravinsky

Meno mosso (♩ = 100)

15

16

(etc.)

Detailed description: This block contains the first three staves of music. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a 2/4 time signature. It begins with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The second and third staves continue the melodic line. Measure 15 is circled, and measure 16 is also circled. The piece concludes with a repeat sign and the instruction '(etc.)'.

18 (♩ = 138)

27

Detailed description: This block contains the next seven staves. The first staff features a series of rests in 3/8, 4/8, 3/8, 5/8, and 5/8 time signatures, followed by a mezzo-forte (mf) melodic passage. Measure 18 is circled. The second staff continues with a forte (f) dynamic and includes triplets and accents. Measure 27 is circled. The piece ends with a repeat sign and '(etc.)'.

Lento (♩ = 50)

Allegro (♩ = 116)

37

Detailed description: This block contains the next four staves. The first staff is marked Lento (♩ = 50) and begins with a piano (p) dynamic. It features a melodic line with triplets and a first ending bracket. The second staff continues with a forte (f) dynamic. The third and fourth staves are marked Allegro (♩ = 116) and feature a very forte (ff) dynamic with a fast, rhythmic pattern. Measure 37 is circled. The piece ends with a repeat sign and '(etc.)'.

Xylophone

f

46

Detailed description: This block contains the next three staves. The first staff is labeled 'Xylophone' and starts with a forte (f) dynamic. It features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The second and third staves continue this pattern. Measure 46 is circled. The piece ends with a repeat sign and '(etc.)'.

Bells

ff

fff

86

Detailed description: This block contains the final three staves. The first staff is labeled 'Bells' and starts with a very forte (ff) dynamic. It features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents. The second and third staves continue with a fortissimo (fff) dynamic. Measure 86 is circled. The piece ends with a repeat sign and '(etc.)'.

Snare Drum Excerpt  
Third Symphony, Schuman

Snare Drum

**Leggiero** (♩ = 108-112)  
Snare Drum

William Schuman

The musical score consists of ten staves of music for snare drum. The notation is written on a single-line staff with a treble clef and a 2/4 time signature. The music is characterized by a light, bouncy feel, consistent with the 'Leggiero' marking. The tempo is indicated as 108-112 beats per minute. The score begins with a dynamic marking of *pp* (pianissimo). The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, often grouped in triplets. Measure numbers 145, 150, 155, 160, 165, 170, 175, 180, 185, 190, and 195 are circled and placed above the corresponding staves. A dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano) appears in the third staff. The score concludes with a dynamic marking of *p* (piano) and a fermata over the final notes, followed by the text 'etc.'.