

2021-2022 Audition Information Percussion - Symphony 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, and timpani (attached). Your solo pieces need not be memorized. For your timpani solo, a set of four 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, 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 **Symphony Orchestra** level:

Xylophone solo: *Etude No. XIV* from *Modern School for Xylophone*

Snare drum solo: *Etude No. 1* by Delecluse

Timpani solo: *Exercise No. 52* from *Goodman Modern Method for Tympani*

2. Excerpts

Attached are prepared excerpts on the timpani and bells. 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 **Symphony Orchestra** level:

Timpani: *Symphony No. 7, Movement 1* by Beethoven

Bells: *Petroushka Ballet Suite* by Stravinsky

(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.

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

Questions? Call (651) 699-5811 or email mys@mnyouthsymphonies.org.

Symphony Snare Solo
Etude #1 by Delecluse

JACQUES DELECLUSE
Soliste au Théâtre National de l'Opéra
et à la Société des Concerts du Conservatoire

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$\text{♩} = 76$

mf *p*

mf *f* *p*

f *p*

f *p subito* *f*

p *cresc.* *f*

p *mf* *f*

f *p*

p sub. *p*

Un poco rit. **Tempo**

mf *p*

f *p sub.* *p sub.*

cresc. *poco* *a* *poco* *f*

Symphony Xylophone Solo
Etude #XIV from Modern School for Xylophone
Tempo: ♩ = 98

Allegro con brio

XIV

L

R

R

L *R*

R *R*

L L R R L L R L R R L

L R R L L R R L L R R L L R L L R

R R *L* *L* *L*

R R L R *R*

R *R R* *L* *L* *L*

Symphony Timpani Solo

Exercise #52 from Goodman Modern Method for Tympani

In C & F

Exercise 52

$\text{♩} = 60$

The musical score for Exercise 52 is written in bass clef with a 9/8 time signature. It begins with a dynamic marking of *f* (forte). The first staff contains the following rhythmic patterns: *f* R LR, R, and LR LR L. The second staff includes L, R L L R L, R, and a triplet of 3. The third staff features L. The fourth staff has R. The fifth staff contains R L R R L. The sixth and final staff includes R, a triplet of 3, and dynamic markings *fp* (pianissimo) and *f* (forte).

15 *ff* *ff* *ff* 2

2 *ff* *ff*

22 *p* *poco cresc.* - - - - - *piu cresc.*

- - - *ff*

ff

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a bass clef instrument, likely a double bass. The score consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with measure 15, marked with a forte-fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. It contains a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a measure with a fermata, and then another triplet of eighth notes, all marked *ff*. The second staff starts with measure 2, also marked *ff*, and continues with a series of eighth notes, ending with a fermata and a final *ff* marking. The third staff begins with measure 22, marked *p* (piano). It features a series of eighth notes with a dynamic marking of *poco cresc.* (poco crescendo), followed by a series of eighth notes marked *piu cresc.* (piu crescendo). The fourth staff contains a series of eighth notes marked *ff*. The fifth staff continues with eighth notes. The sixth and final staff begins with a series of eighth notes marked *ff*.

Symphony Bells Excerpt
Petroushka Ballet Suite by Stravinsky

PETROUCHKA
Ballet Suite

BELLS (Xylophone)

By Igor Stravinsky

Meno mosso (♩ = 100)

15

16

(etc.)

18 (♩ = 138)

27

Lento (♩ = 50)

Allegro (♩ = 116)

37

Xylophone

46

Bells

5 5 1 36 2 5 6 5 5

ff R

Detailed description: This page contains the musical score for the Bells (Xylophone) part of the Petroushka Ballet Suite. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It begins at measure 15 with a tempo marking of 'Meno mosso' and a quarter note equal to 100 beats per minute. The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. Dynamic markings include 'mf' (mezzo-forte), 'f' (forte), 'p' (piano), and 'ff' (fortissimo). There are several first and second endings marked with circled numbers 1 and 2. The tempo changes to 'Lento' (♩ = 50) at measure 27 and back to 'Allegro' (♩ = 116) at measure 37. The score concludes at measure 46 with a final fortissimo (ff) dynamic. The instrument is identified as 'Bells' and 'Xylophone'.

