

Audition Process for the Valdosta State Percussion Section

Due to the mixed background that the majority of students come from, we take a little bit more of a fundamental approach to auditions. Very similar to a scholarship audition, we are more interested in seeing you perform basic fundamental exercises with confidence that you are familiar with so we can see you play at your highest level.

Therefore, these are the skill sets we are looking for to be demonstrated-(all at various tempos)

BATTERY (including cymbals)

1)Legato Exercise = typical “8 on a hand” type exercise demonstrating good velocity with the sticks/mallets and a general flow in the hands

2)Accent Tap = this could be a “Bucs” exercise or 16th note/triplet “grid” or “4-2-1” accent pattern. Something that displays a good control of accented and unaccented notes with each hand where a clear distinction between these two both visually and audibly is the goal.

3)Double Beat = An exercise containing two consecutive notes on each hand where the goal is for each stroke to have equal sound quality. Stroke should feel very similar to your legato exercise just only two at a time.

4)Roll Exercise = “Triplet diddle” “Chicken & a Roll” etc. will suffice. Anything where there is sustaining open rolls.

5)Flam Exercise/Spree/Solo = Now is the chance to show what you’ve got. “Hero licks” “Shopping Sprees” Could be you favorite snare/tenor/etc break. Go for it!

***For Exercises 1-4, those auditioning for tenors, it is very much desired that there be some sort of “around” pattern as well as being played on one drum

FRONT ENSEMBLE

Scales = minimum of 6 major scales. Preferred if they are preformed chromatically adjacent.

Timing= can be 16th note based or triplet based, or both! The old standard “16th note timing containing “1e&” “1&a” “1ea” and “e&a” is an example.

Sight Reading = short piece that you will be given just a few moments to look over before playing.

Four Mallet Exercises (if applicable) = one that demonstrates double vertical, double lateral, single independent, and single alternating

Etude/Solo Rep. = A short prepared piece/excerpt of your choosing that you feel best shows off your talents