

Freshman Audition Guidelines – Percussion – Western Illinois University

Percussionists must demonstrate a competency on the instruments below. For general admission, 2 of the 4 instrumental groupings should be represented. A minimum of 3 of the 4 groupings should be represented for talent grant awards. One of these must be a keyboard instrument. Sight reading will be expected on snare drum, timpani, and marimba.

1. Snare drum
2. Multiple percussion (includes drum set)
3. Timpani
4. Keyboard instruments (marimba, xylophone, or vibraphone)

Suggested materials:

The following list represents the literature level that would be appropriate for auditions. Only one movement of a multi-movement work is required. Choose one or a piece of similar difficulty from each category.

A. Snare drum:

1. Markovich, Mitch. Solos for Snare Drum
2. Wilcoxon, Charles. Modern Rudimental Swing Solos for the Advanced Drummer
3. Colgrass, Michael. Six Unaccompanied Solos for Snare Drum
4. Benson, Warren. Three Dances
5. Cirone, Anthony. Portraits in Rhythm

B. Timpani

1. Goodman, Saul. Ballad for the Dance
2. Beck, John. Sonata for Timpani (any single movement)
3. Aiello, Joseph. Classic African
4. Frock, George. Seven Solo Dances (any of the seven)
5. Whaley, Garwood. Music Studies for the Intermediate Timpanist

C. Keyboard

1. Vivaldi, Antonio. Concerto in A minor (op. 3, no. 6)
2. Bach, J.S. Concerto in A minor
3. Pitfield, Thomas. Sonata for Xylophone Solo
4. Peters, Mitchell. Yellow after the Rain
5. McMillan, Thomas. Masterpieces for the Marimba
6. DeGastyne, Serge. Menuet Tres Antique for vibraharp solo
7. Davis, Thomas. Recital for Vibraharp

D. Multiple Percussion:

1. Kraft, William. French Suite
2. Tagawa, Rickey. Inspirations Diabolique
3. Kraft, William. Morris Dance
4. Goldenberg, Morris. Studies in Solo Percussion
5. Stephens, Michael. Downside-up (drum set)
6. Lincoln, Rod. Fantasy for Drums (drum set)