

# Percussion - Audition Requirements

## Undergraduate

If you are auditioning for UCM Music and you wish to declare percussion/drums as your primary instrument, you must perform **two** prepared selections as part of your audition; three or more are recommended to maximize scholarship consideration. An outline of percussion areas and potential repertoire you might choose is provided on the second page of this document; this list is not exclusive, which means you can choose your own pieces/tunes to play at your audition.

You may also be asked to perform select **scales, sight reading, and demonstrate basic aural skills** depending on your intended music major. In terms of aural skills, you may be asked to match a pitch played for you on a piano, and then to sing a related interval.

Please contact Dr. Smith ([jasmith@ucmo.edu](mailto:jasmith@ucmo.edu)) with any questions about your audition!

## Minimum Audition Requirements by Intended Major

### Music Education (BME)

- Prepared Pieces
  - Perform a snare drum solo and a two or four mallet keyboard solo.
  - You are strongly encouraged to prepare a third selection or more in other percussion areas (see list below).
- Scales
  - Chromatic and major scales
- Sight Reading
  - Keyboard and snare drum (required); chart and lead sheet reading (optional)

### BM Performance

- Prepared Pieces
  - Perform a snare drum solo and a two or four mallet keyboard solo.
  - You are strongly encouraged to prepare a third selection or more in other percussion areas (see list below).
- Scales
  - Chromatic, all major scales, and all melodic minor scales
- Sight Reading
  - Keyboard and snare drum (required); chart and lead sheet reading (optional)

### BM Music Technology and Commercial Music, Bachelor of Arts, Music Minors, and non-music majors

- Prepared Pieces

- Choose any two percussion areas for your audition (see list below), or you can prepare two selections in the same area (ex: you could prepare two drumset selections, such as two drum covers where you play along with recordings).
- Scales, if comfortable
  - Chromatic and major scales
- Sight Reading
  - Choose between keyboard, snare drum, drumset chart, or lead sheet reading

## Percussion Areas and Examples of Audition Repertoire

- Snare Drum Solo
  - Concert ex: [Peters](#), [Cirone](#), [Delecluse](#)
  - Rudimental ex: [Wilcoxin](#), [Pratt](#), [Freytag](#)
- Keyboard Solo (Two mallets or four mallets)
  - Ex: [Bach](#), [Abe](#), [Green](#), [Quartier](#), [Davila](#), [Ford](#), [Gaines](#)
- Timpani Solo or Etude
  - Ex: [Hochrainer](#), [Carroll](#), [Goodman](#)
- Drumset
  - Demonstration of styles
    - Demonstrate time and feel, color changes, marking the form, fills, and soloing within the style
    - Examples of styles you could choose to demonstrate: Medium swing, fast swing, samba/bossa nova, Afro-Cuban, rock, funk
  - Drum Cover
    - Play drumset along with a recording that you enjoy
    - Examples: tunes by Stevie Wonder, Slipknot, Taylor Swift, and more.
- Tonal Improvisation
  - Demonstrate time, feel, form, comping, and soloing on a blues, rhythm changes, or a tune/style of your choice
- Percussion from Around the World
  - Ex: Brazilian pandeiro, Cuban congas, Ghanaian gyil, Irish bodhrán
  - Demonstrate understanding of the practice musically, socially, culturally, and historically

## Supplementary Materials

- You are invited to submit optional supplementary materials as YouTube links, audio/video files, or printed or digital copies of scores. Examples of supplementary materials include:
  - Recordings of multiple percussion performances
  - Recordings of percussion ensemble/combo playing
  - Proof of experience with composing/arranging
  - Proof of experience with music technology

# Master of Arts

Candidates interested in auditioning for a Master of Arts with an instrumental (percussion) emphasis should contact Prof. Smith ([jasmith@ucmo.edu](mailto:jasmith@ucmo.edu)) and the graduate advisor, Dr. Frank Fenley ([fenley@ucmo.edu](mailto:fenley@ucmo.edu)), for audition requirements and information. A list of recommended repertoire and audition components is provided below:

- Concert Snare Drum Solo
  - Ex: Vinson, Cirone, Delecluse
- Rudimental Snare Drum Solo
  - Ex: Wilcoxin, Pratt
- Keyboard Solos
  - Ex: Bach, Druckman, Miki, Sammut, Abe
- Timpani Solo or Etude
  - Ex: Hochrainer, Carroll
- Excerpts
- Multi Percussion
  - Please send a link to a performance online
- Drumset Styles
  - Ex: Medium swing, fast swing, samba/bossa nova, Afro-Cuban, rock, funk
  - Demonstrate time and feel, color changes, marking the form, fills, and soloing within the style
  - You may also play along with a track
- Tonal Improvisation
  - Blues, rhythm changes, or a tune/style of your choice
  - Demonstrate time, feel, form, comping, and soloing
- Percussion from Around the World
  - Ex: Brazilian pandeiro, Cuban congas, Ghanaian gyil, Irish bodhrán
  - Demonstrate understanding of the practice musically, socially, culturally, and historically
- Proof of Composition/Arrangement
- Proof of Experience with Marching Percussion
- Proof of Experience with Music Tech
- Timpani Tuning
- Sight reading (Snare drum, marimba, drumset chart, and/or lead sheet)