

Percussion Recording Instructions for Colorado All-State Band

ALL-STATE BAND AUDITIONS ARE VIDEO for PERCUSSION

BE SURE TO FOLLOW THESE EXACTLY SO YOU HAVE THE BEST CHANCE OF BEING SELECTED

You CAN make individual video recordings and put them in the proper order. When making your final audition, put them in the order Snare, Mallets (Major scale, harmonic minor scale, chromatic scale, prepared piece), Timpani (tuning then prepared piece). IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY (not your band directors) to make sure you have every element recorded – in the proper order and that your recording is in the proper format (.mp4) and plays. To be clear, you ARE allowed to splice together your complete recordings, you ARE NOT allowed to do any splicing/clipping/editing to any individual element – Each element (i.e Major Scale or prepared piece) must be recorded from start to end in one take. If it is determined that there has been any editing to any individual element, your recording will not be considered.

The final recording should be in the .mp4 format (use a converter if necessary). The video quality and size have a huge impact on the size of the file which will impact the time required for your band director to upload the recording. We highly recommend that your recording be at 720P at a standard compression rate and that the size of the recording be a minimum of 360 X 640 and a maximum of 480 X 852. There are many free online video converters that can help you get your video to the proper specifications. If you have questions, check with your media specialist or band director for help.

Before you do your recording, you should record yourself playing something and watch to it to make sure you sound good in the recording (before you realize it too late) and that the judge can see you, your technique (hands/sticks) and your instrument. The better your equipment, the better the recording quality. Check with your school director to find out what equipment they recommend for your recording. Make sure when you play your loudest, it isn't peaking out and sounding bad.

The first element is your SNARE audition

- Before you record your snare prepared piece, say your name and the school you attend then play your prepared piece. Do not have a metronome running. If you re-record, make sure you do the announcement again. This will be the first thing in your audition recording.

MALLET audition – Perform all mallet requirements on MARIMBA if available (if the school doesn't have a marimba, use the best instrument you have access to).

- The first element of your mallet audition is your specific Major scale. Be sure you have prepared the correct scale (check with your band director if you are not sure which scales to submit). The scale must be 2 octaves, in the specified pattern and at a tempo of quarter note = 92. Do not have a metronome running in the recording. You DO NOT need to record an arpeggio.
- The next element is your specific HARMONIC minor scale. Be sure you have prepared the correct scale (check with your band director if you are not sure which scales to submit). The scale must be 2 octaves, in the specified pattern and at a tempo of quarter note = 92. Do not have a metronome running in the recording. You DO NOT need to record an arpeggio.
- You need to submit a Chromatic Scale as the next element. The scale should be played in eighth notes, starting on C, ascending and descending and encompass 2 octaves in range. The recommended tempo is quarter note = 104 or faster. Do not have a metronome running in the recording.
- The final element of the mallet audition is your mallet prepared piece. Do not have a metronome running in the recording.
- Edit your 4 recordings so there is not a lot of "dead" time between elements. Be sure you put the recordings in the order: major, minor, chromatic, prepared piece

The final element in the audition is the TIMPANI section. You are not allowed to splice together a "tuning" and a "prepared" timpani recording – the entire timpani audition should be in a single take.

- First thing you need to do is tune the drums. Be sure to video tape this. Play your reference pitch (pitch pipe, tuning fork or any instrument to get the pitch is acceptable). Quickly and quietly tune your first drum – then without playing any other pitch on your reference device (just tuning by interval) quickly and quietly tune the other drums. When you have them tuned, you should play the prepared piece. You should start right after you are done tuning (so there is not a lot of "dead" time between the tuning the performance of the etude). IF YOU HAVE TO RE-RECORD THE EXCERPT, you MUST re-record the tuning (clear the drums and re-set the pedals before starting the recording).

Remember:

- You should only audition for the band if you can attend EVERY rehearsal and the performance. Double check your calendar now and don't take a spot away from someone else only to find out you can't participate. (Complete dates and information is on the All-State Band Website).
- Be sure to complete the online registration and pay the audition fees (to your school) BY THE ESTABLISHED DUE DATE. Your director will not be able to upload your recording until you have completed the online registration, and the audition payment (by your director) has been made.
- You will give your recording to your band director and they will upload it to be adjudicated. Be sure to give them time to complete their part in the process. If they have specific school deadlines, be sure to follow them.
- Late auditions and auditions received NOT in the .mp4 format will not be considered.