

Jr. SYMS Percussion Information

Greetings and welcome to the Junior Session of Summer Youth Music School (SYMS) at the University of New Hampshire! Enclosed are the required materials for your placement audition. You will be assigned a 10-15 minute audition time-slot upon your arrival to camp. Please begin practicing these materials now so that you may present your best effort when you arrive. Remember: your ensemble placement tends to be a direct reflection of your level of preparation.

How to Prepare a *Successful* SYMS Audition

Your audition will consist of the three enclosed excerpts, a demonstration of technique on various auxiliary instruments, and sight-reading. Pitch, rhythm, dynamics, and consistent tempo are of utmost importance and should not be secondary to speed.

1. **Snare Drum:** While rhythmic accuracy is the primary goal, paying close attention to dynamics, articulations, and smoothness of rolls is equally significant. Work with a metronome to help internalize these concepts.
2. **Timpani:** You will be required to tune the drums as noted in the piece. Be sure to practice this while you have access to your school's timpani. The use of a tuning fork or pitch pipe is advised. Pay attention to the proper playing areas of the drums and points throughout the excerpt that would benefit from muffling or dampening, always striving for the best sound quality. In addition to pitch and rhythmic accuracy, we will be considering dynamics, articulations, and roll quality (with the use of single stroke rolls).
3. **Keyboard Percussion (mallets):** This excerpt may be performed on whichever mallet instrument you feel most comfortable on (bells, xylophone, marimba, or vibraphone). Consider the appropriate mallet type for that instrument when making this decision. Again, while rhythmic and note accuracy are important, strive to make your performance as musical as possible by observing written dynamics and personal phrasing ideas.
4. **Auxiliary Percussion Techniques:** You may be asked to demonstrate proper technique on several auxiliary instruments. These may include (but are not limited to) crash cymbals, tambourine, and triangle. There are many online videos and article resources available for those unfamiliar with the proper technique of these instruments (a highly suggested resource is the "Percussion 101" video series on the vicfirth.com website).
5. **Jazz Band:** For those auditioning for jazz band, you are required to prepare a swing beat, bossa-nova beat, and a rock beat in addition to the concert materials discussed above. A drum set will be provided at your audition. Drummers chosen to be in one of the jazz bands will be able to keep their drum sets on campus; students not selected should send their drum sets home after the audition results are announced. Auditioning for a jazz band is optional and only students interested in doing so need to prepare the drum set audition materials.

PLEASE REMEMBER: ALL percussionists must bring the following to SYMS

- sticks, brushes, and mallets (timpani and keyboard) that you may own
- a practice pad is required and will be used extensively in master classes
- personal cymbals for those who wish to participate in the jazz ensembles

*INSTRUCTIONS FOR KEEPING AND STORING DRUM SETS AT SYMS WILL BE INCLUDED
IN THE FINAL EMAIL IN JUNE.*

Finally, all percussion students have the option of taking private lessons with instructors on the percussion instrument of their choice (keyboard, timpani, snare drum, drum set). If you are interested in a private lesson, please consider what you might like to focus on as this will assist the instructors in providing you with the best experience.

Any questions regarding audition materials should be directed to the following individuals:

Concert Band / Orchestra: RON GOODWIN at r.s.goodwin@alumni.unh.edu

Jazz Band: LES HARRIS, JR. at lesharrisjr@comcast.net

All other questions regarding SYMS should be directed to
Lyndsay Boysen at lyndsay.boysen@unh.edu

*This year's faculty is looking forward to meeting and
working with each of you at SYMS this summer!*



Jr SYMS Audition Material - Keyboard

The image displays two staves of musical notation for a keyboard audition. Both staves are in 4/4 time and use a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff begins with a dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte) and concludes with a hairpin indicating a crescendo. The second staff begins with a dynamic marking of *p* (piano) and concludes with a hairpin indicating a crescendo to a dynamic marking of *f* (forte). The notation includes quarter notes, eighth notes, and chords, with some notes marked with accents.

Jr SYMS Audition Material - Timpani

The image displays two staves of musical notation for Timpani in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and concludes with a hairpin symbol. The second staff starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and ends with a piano (*p*) dynamic, indicated by a hairpin.