

MPA Video Audition Requirements 2016

Because many who plan to audition have asked about sending in a video audition, we've decided to publish our requirements for the video audition. Below we cover each instrument and the general video angles for recording.

Your video audition should be approximately 5 minutes in length and should have a video angle showing your mallet or stick as it strikes the surface/bar and shows your upper body. A view of your face and feet is not required.

Please upload your videos to YouTube and email the location of your YouTube video audition link to the MPA staff at the following email address:

- madisonregister00@gmail.com

The deadline for uploading your audition videos and sending an email to the staff at the address above is Thursday, 11/17/2016 by 1:00pm Central time. The staff will review your audition videos prior to the live auditions on 11/19/2016 and 11/20/2016.

If you have any questions please email one of the following:

- barleyflam66@gmail.com
- zrmelton@gmail.com

In general, the instructional staff are looking for you to demonstrate your instrumental proficiency and your overall musicianship. The audition team wants to hear you put your "best foot forward" and highlight your facility or skill. Ultimately, the audition is a discovery process and we want to find out what you do well. We will build our music program around what you do well. Good luck! We're excited to see each one of you!

Drum Set: We are looking for you to hold down an authentic groove and be able to ad lib and articulate within that groove. On your audition tape, for each feel below, please play 8 bars of the groove followed by 8 bars of ad lib/solo and articulation and back to 8 bars of the groove again. Use a moderately slow tempo and a fast tempo for each.

- Jazz Shuffle
- Funk
- Rock
- Bossa Nova
- Mambo
- Reggae
- 4/4 Swing

Vibraphone/Marimba: We are looking for you to demonstrate 2 and 4 mallet technique on your video recording. We are looking for your strengths and to evaluate your musicianship as a whole. The exercises in the MPA 2016 audition package are designed for you to demonstrate your technical facility via typical practice routines and exercises (scales, arpeggios, block chords, permutations, etc.) performed at slow and fast tempos and at various dynamics. Please demonstrate the following exercises from the audition packet at a slow tempo played at p, mp, and f; also, play them at a fast tempo at p, mp, and f dynamics.

- Accent Tap
- 8th Note Doubles
- FUNdamentals
- Triplet Rolls

Vibraphone and Marimba players are reminded that they need to bring their own mallets for the live audition on 11/19/16 & 11/20/16.

Multi percussion: demonstrate basic rudiments and command of the following instruments below. For examples on concert snare please demonstrate buzz rolls, single stroke rolls, paradiddles, paradiddlediddles, flams, and perhaps ratamacues. On conga, hand percussion, demonstrate basic tumbao groove and specific, basic tone on the conga drum, such as closed tones, open tones, "heel-toe", hand rocking motion, slaps muted and slaps open.

- concert snare drum: basic rudiments and buzz rolls; all at various tempi.
- Congas: Demonstrate basic "martillo" rhythm at a slow tempo. Include some basic variations and improvisations.
- Bongos: Demonstrate basic "martillo" rhythm at a slow tempo. Include some basic variations and improvisations.
- Concert bass drum: basic strokes at various dynamic levels, bass drum rolls.
- Suspended cymbal: crescendo rolls, crashes using mallets (sustained and choked).

Drum set artists and hand percussionists are reminded that they must bring their own instruments to the live audition on 11/19/16 & 11/20/16. For Drumset please bring only your kick drum, snare drum, and hi-hat.

Battery percussion: We want to see you play each of the following exercises at the dynamic levels forte to piano, and mezzo piano to piano. The slowest tempo will coincide with 'forte to piano,' then the faster tempo will correlate to the mezzo piano accent height of 6" to 3".

- Accent Tap (bpm= 106, AND bpm= 136)
- 8th Note Doubles (bpm= 140, AND bpm= 160)
- FUNdamentals (bpm= 95, AND bpm= 120)
- Triplet Rolls (bpm= 130, AND bpm= 172, and 190 bpm for fun!)

Battery payers should seek to play these exercise with a very relaxed approach and a full sound. MPA intends to use traditional grip on snare drum. Your video recording angle should show your sticks striking the drum heads, your upper body, and have clear line of sight to your grip in both hands.

Some valuable things to remember:

We have provided online clinic and audition materials that will help you prepare for the audition. Please use these exercises and memorize them as soon as possible.

The audition is formatted to assess students' overall musicianship. In addition, we are also interested in seeing how you function in an ensemble setting during the live audition on 11/19/16 & 11/20/16.

Relax and have fun with the videos. After all, this is a tremendously fun youth activity! Mr. Barley and Mr. Melton, and the entire staff, are dedicated to the kids who want to learn and ensures that there will be a performance spot at The Madison Percussion Academy for anyone who wants to be in the ensemble.

Sincerely,
Bryan Barley, Director
Zack Melton, Educational Director