**Towson University Marching Band**

**2024 Percussion Audition Information**

Hello, and thank you for your interest in joining the 2024 Towson University Marching Band! The TUMB is a unique college marching experience and we take pride in fielding one of the most innovative and technical percussion sections in the area.

The following audition process is meant to serve as a vehicle for the staff to get to know you as a player, and as a person. The audition itself will be an ongoing exploration of your individual music and marching skills along with your preparation and improvement throughout the summer. Over the course of 4 separate audition days, the percussion staff will assess each member's potential and will make revisions after each event until the roster is finalized.

We encourage players of all experience and talent levels to audition for the percussion section. With that being said, there are a limited number of spots available on each instrument. For the 2024 season, positions in the drumline and front ensemble will be awarded based on the following criteria:

* *Overall preparation, attitude, and communication during the audition process*
* *A commitment to the schedule, standards, and excellence of the Towson University Marching Band*
* *Musical and technical percussion performance proficiency*
* *Physical and visual marching proficiency*

The following audition material covers a wide range of skill sets and difficulties. Please prepare this material to the best of YOUR ability. If you have any questions along the way about the audition material or process, please feel free to reach out. The staff and I are here to guide you through the process, and we want to see you succeed!

Thank you,

**Taylor Yozwiak**

**Assistant Director of Athletic Bands/Director of Marching Percussion  
*The World Famous* Towson University Marching Band**Center for the Arts 4058 | 8000 York Rd. | Towson, MD 21252  
Office: 410-704-0520

Email: [tyozwiak@towson.edu](mailto:tyozwiak@towson.edu)

**Audition Dates and Details**

**Preliminary Audition:**

Your preliminary audition will be a one-on-one “mini-lesson” with the Director of Percussion and select members of the percussion staff. This is the very first step in the process, and is your opportunity to make a strong first impression. Very few revisions will be made after the preliminary audition day. However, we will provide guidance for each individual on how to proceed towards the next stage of the audition. Members returning on the same instrument from 2023 do not need to attend the preliminary audition, but should attend all call-backs.

**Date: Sunday, May 19th - All Day** *Sign-ups for audition slots will be sent closer to the audition day.*

***Missed the preliminary audition? It is not too late to get involved. Please email Yoz at tyozwiak@towson.edu.***

**Call-Back Audition Camps:**

The three call-back auditions will be day long group rehearsals. The percussion staff will assess how you operate as an individual performer and within your section. Revisions will be made after each call-back, and the final roster for the season will be set during or after the August camp. Please be flexible and open minded during this process. It is very common during this time for a player who auditioned on snare to end up playing bass drum, or for someone who auditioned on cymbals to end up in the front ensemble, for example. Also, please keep in mind that many students transition between sections over the course of their years in the TUMB. If you are not awarded a spot on your desired instrument at first, there will be plenty of opportunities to train and work towards that goal in the future.

**Dates:**

**Sunday, June 23rd - 10:00AM to 6:00PM**

**Sunday, July 14th - 10:00AM to 6:00PM**

**Sunday, August 4th - 10:00AM to 6:00PM**

**Location for all Auditions:**

Towson University Center for the Arts

7700 Osler Drive

Towson, MD 21252

“What if I can’t attend one of the dates listed above?” OR… “A spot in the TUMB is going to factor into my decision to attend Towson University - what if I can’t wait until July to make that decision?”

If you are asking yourself one of those questions, please reach out to Taylor Yozwiak directly at [tyozwiak@towson.edu](mailto:tyozwiak@towson.edu). It is very possible to arrange an alternative or expedited audition process on a case by case basis.

**What to Prepare - Preliminary Audition**

**DRUMLINE**

FIRST: Please fill out the following audition form ASAP:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdtCtvkg6XdS8ZZzHOoyDUzp_S1DP0KmOgGgITxXZSHYSHAAw/viewform?usp=sf_link>

Snares/Tenors/Bass/Cymbals:

* “Shoes” Cadence - ALL
  + Quarter Note = 120bpm
  + W/Mark Time
  + Cymbals Play Highlighted Notes Only (Split)
* “Maryland Medley” - ALL
  + W/Mark Time
  + Cymbals Should Play Top to E Only (No Splits)
* “Tiger Mania” - ALL
  + Dotted Quarter and Regular Quarter = 132bpm
  + Feet Spread
  + Cymbals Play All (No Splits)

*\*For those interested in a bass drum position, please prepare the line for the drum that you desire to play. If you do not have a preference, please learn the entire composite rhythms, as if they were not split.\**

**All music can be found in the “Audition Music and Materials” folder attached to this packet. Please also refer to the 2023 Towson Marching Percussion Technique Handbook for specific details on approaching each instrument.**

***\*\*Additional audition material may be assigned throughout the summer\*\****

**What to Prepare - Preliminary Audition**

**FRONT ENSEMBLE**

FIRST: Please fill out the following audition form ASAP:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdtCtvkg6XdS8ZZzHOoyDUzp_S1DP0KmOgGgITxXZSHYSHAAw/viewform?usp=sf_link>

Marimbas/Vibes/Xylophone/Glock:

* IHOP, A minor (written key):
  + Quarter Note = 128bpm, f
  + Quarter Note = 144bpm, mf
  + Quarter Note = 160bpm, mp
* IHOP, F Major (transposed):
  + Quarter Note = 128bpm, f
* Sambadagio
  + Quarter Note = 120bpm

For those interested in playing the following instruments, please email Taylor Yozwiak at [tyozwiak@towson.edu](mailto:tyozwiak@towson.edu) to arrange a separate audition plan.

* Drumset
* Electric/Bass Guitar
* Synthesizer
* Auxiliary/Rack Percussion
* Sampler/Electronics

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