



2020 UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND DRUMLINE

Greetings! Thank you for your interest in the University of Maryland Drumline, one of the most visible and exciting sections of the Mighty Sound of Maryland (MSOM) Marching Band. Membership in the UMDrumline is by **audition only**, and is based on playing skills, attendance, attitude and work ethic. This year's ensemble will consist of no more than 10 snares, 6 tenors, 8 basses, and 12 cymbals for a total of 36 players. MSOM does not have a front ensemble, but all percussionists regardless of instrumental focus or expertise are encouraged to audition!

Spring/Summer Drum Days

Saturday, April 18th, 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Saturday, June 22nd, 9:00AM - 8:00PM

Saturday, July 20th, 9:00AM - 8:00PM

Location: Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, Room 2540 (Wakefield Band Room)

8720 Alumni Drive

College Park, MD 20742

Audition Information

Saturday, August 22nd, 9:00AM - 9:00PM

Location: Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, Room 2540

MSOM Band Camp (Early Week): Sunday, August 23 - Saturday, August 29

Auditions will be completed by Sunday evening. If anyone living on campus does not make the drumline, they will meet with the directors about their housing options and for continuing with MSOM in another section or as an alternate.

****All new and returning members are required to audition for a spot in the drumline****

Audition Material

Please visit our webpage at ter.ps/MSOMDrumline to view and download the audition music. Please prepare the entire exercise unless otherwise noted (this includes melodies for tenors). Snares will utilize traditional grip and tenors/basses/cymbals will utilize matched grip. As you prepare the material, **always practice and play along with a metronome and mark time!** No exceptions.

Snares and Tenors

- 8's — Accent Tap
- Dub Trip — Terplet Partial
- Triplet Griddle
- S.P.R.E.T. (Beginning-B)
- Basic Strokes (All)

Tenors should prepare both "single-drum" and "around" parts

Basses and Cymbals (both on snare pad using matched grip)

- 8's — Accent Tap (check - Letter A)
- Dub Trip — Terplet Partial (snare part)
- Triplet Griddle (snare part) - basses only
- Spider (mm. 2-11), use "natural sticking" - basses only
- Basic Strokes (Letters D-E) - basses only

**Those interested in playing cymbals will meet separately as well during auditions to cover basic cymbal techniques with our cymbal section leader.*

Audition Procedure

The audition will consist of both individual and group evaluation. The results of the audition will be made aware to applicants prior to the start of Sunday evening's full band rehearsal. Students will select a primary and secondary instrument for the audition. Students will perform on their primary instrument for the individual audition (always marking time). The secondary instrument should be prepared to the best of the student's ability (memorization not required). Personnel will rotate instruments throughout the group audition.

Regarding audition preparation, we strongly urge members to be confident in their individual playing (timing, clarity, approach, overall sound, etc.) in order to set a strong foundation within the ensemble setting of the percussion section. Your ability to play the basics well is more important than your ability to perform stick tricks, flashy licks, etc. Once again: no spot is guaranteed – all members (new members & veterans) must go through the same audition process.

Though not required, you are STRONGLY encouraged to memorize all music for the audition. Members of MSOM will learn 6-7 different shows throughout the fall as well as several stand tunes, pregame arrangements, cadences, and cheers. The skill of quickly learning and memorizing new music is crucial once the season starts. In addition to the playing audition, students will also be evaluated throughout the first week on marching fundamentals and responsiveness to instruction.

Other Important Information

On Drum Days and Audition Day, The Mighty Sound of Maryland will provide:

- Drums
- Carriers
- Stands
- Cymbals

Things to bring:

- **This packet, along with audition sheet music in a 3-ring binder w/sheet protectors**
- Comfortable athletic attire/shoes (no sandals)
- Lunch (or \$\$)/snacks
- Sunscreen/sunglasses/hat
- EARPLUGS! (specifically musician's earplugs, details listed on last page of this packet)
- Snare/tenor sticks, bass drum mallets will be provided
- Instrument appropriate drum pads: snares/basses/cymbals - snare pad, tenors - 5 surface tenor pad
- Great attitude — come well prepared and ready to learn!

Please let me know if you have any questions, my contact information is below. We look forward to seeing you this summer!

Mr. Jeremy Maytum
Coordinator of Marching Percussion
The University of Maryland
cell: 719-406-3115
email: jcmaytum@umd.edu



UMDRUMLINE BATTERY TECHNIQUE

TIMING

As a section of The Mighty Sound of Maryland, the battery has the responsibility of keeping time for the rest of the ensemble – timing is key. For this reason, we will be “marking time” virtually anytime we play because great timing starts from the ground up. It is crucial that the feet act as the source of pulse so that the hands line up and “follow” the feet, not the other way around. Always practice with a metronome and always practice with the feet.

Regarding the “mark time,” your feet should form a 45° angle – heels together, toes apart. Make sure the whole foot comes evenly off of the ground about 1/2” and articulates back down on the beat. This should look relaxed but felt “fortissimo.” We will almost always start off of the left foot.

SOUND

In order to produce the best sound possible on each instrument, several factors regarding approach must be considered. As you play, make sure that you strive to achieve a relaxed yet confident stroke and grip. Your grip should never “choke off” or inhibit the natural resonance of the stick or mallet. Additionally, it is important to utilize the drum’s rebound at all times in order to keep the stick/mallet in motion at all times – any extra pressure in the grip will create an inefficient stroke off of the head. Consistent velocity between all dynamic levels while letting the sticks “breathe” will produce a healthy, full sound. A relaxed forte legato stroke should feel the same in the hands as a relaxed piano legato stroke.

***An important note about taps: taps make up the majority of all music the UMDrumline will be playing. Feel comfortable playing taps at true piano. For height reference, taps should never be higher than “parallel” to the playing surface (aka 3”). Though we will occasionally refer to heights in terms of inches, these are general (and mostly visual) concepts, not exact sciences. Our ears and eyes ultimately define how we blend and balance between/across sections. You are strongly encouraged to practice in front of a mirror in order to monitor consistency of sounds and heights.

SNARES/TENORS

The MSOM snareline plays with traditional grip – creating consistent sounds hand to hand is key. As the main melodic voices of the drumline, great rhythmic timing and confidence within the snare and tenor sections are crucial. Tenors: be able to play all warm-up exercises on drum 2. Additionally, the hands should always reset to drum 1 & 2 when not playing.

BASSES

In addition to preparing the “unison” parts of the exercises, please be familiar with all splits. Playing on a bassline, where you are virtually a soloist within a section, requires individual mental strength and precise timing. You may be asked to perform exercise splits by yourself. Always practice with a metronome while marking time.

THE MSOM CYMBALS

As perhaps the most noticeable instrument on the field (both visually and aurally), upper body strength and timing are of utmost importance. In the audition, you may be asked to demonstrate standard crashes in variety of rhythms with a metronome while marking time. Though the individual audition will factor into the results, we will also evaluate how well you work and learn in sectionals on musical and technical abilities/progress.

OTHER INFO

Sectionals/Game Day

- As the season starts, extra drumline sectionals will be held once a week (Thursday evenings)
- You are required to be available ALL DAY on game days regardless of start time, as there are morning rehearsals and post-game performances (i.e. don't schedule anything of game days)

Health & Wellness

- Because your well-being is important to us, please come to auditions ready for athletic activity (appropriate attire, proper nourished, well-rested, etc.)
- Please wear comfortable athletic attire, athletic shoes, water bottle, sunglasses, sunscreen
- **EAR PLUGS ARE REQUIRED!!!** Tinnitus is a serious hearing condition that has emerged through careless marching percussion practices. Etymotic Research makes great and affordable musician's earplugs that are readily available from Amazon: *Etymotic Research ER20XS Hi-Fidelity Ear Plugs* - 3 sizes available

ALWAYS PRACTICE WITH A METRONOME