

2010-2011 Audition Information

Percussion - Symphony



1. Solo pieces

You are required to prepare solo pieces on the xylophone and the snare drum (attached). Your solo piece need not be memorized. You will be given 60 seconds to tune the timpani before you being playing, using a standard A=440 pitch tuning fork (provided) for your reference pitch. Pitch-pipes and electronic tuners will not be allowed. Tuning gauges will be covered at the audition.

With your solo and/or your prepared excerpt(s), you may be asked to play it again in a different manner (slower, faster, more lyrically, etc.). Please regard this as evidence of your musical flexibility, which will weigh heavily on the success of your audition.

Required percussion solo repertoire for the **Symphony Orchestra** level:

Xylophone: Goldenberg, Etude XIII
Snare drum: Delécluse, Etude No. 1
Timpani: Peters, Etude No. 41

2. Excerpts

Attached are prepared excerpts on the xylophone and snare drum. If you are unfamiliar with the excerpt, consult with your private teacher or a coach who is familiar with them. It is recommended that you also listen to a recording or live performance of the piece in order to give yourself proper tempo and musical context. Prepare the excerpt closest to your ability level; check the Philharmonic and Repertory percussion audition packets for a comparison.

3. Scales & technique

Scales: All required scales must be memorized. Automatically play the corresponding arpeggios to a scale, if required. You must be able to play the following scales on the xylophone in 2 octaves: All the major scales in all keys and natural minor scales, as well as the melodic and harmonic minor scales in the keys of a, d, e, g and b. All scales are to be played from memory. Practice your scales on an actual xylophone so you will be prepared.

Technique: SNARE LONG ROLL: The long roll tests your ability to sustain an even, concert-style (buzz) roll with extreme dynamic changes steadily over several seconds and in the appropriate time. The roll will be directed by one of the judges.

4. Sight-reading

Sight-reading for all orchestras will include complex rhythms relative to the level of the orchestra. Feel free to tell the conductor which orchestra you are trying out for. Sight-reading for Symphony will be on both the xylophone and snare drum. Rhythms will consist of standard note values as small as sixteenth notes and may include triplets or dotted note values. Rolls may be included.

(continued)

5. Orchestra placement

Student placement is competitive and is ranked in order of artistic quality. Those qualities include superiority of tone, intonation, vibrato (as appropriate), dynamic range, musicality and general accuracy. Although a student may be able to perform all the requirements for a particular orchestra, he or she may still not qualify based on the level of competition in a given year.

6. Auditions are closed to the public, including parents and families.

7. Prior participation in the Minnesota Youth Symphonies is no guarantee of placement.

Audition Site Details: General

What to bring

- solo and excerpt music provided in this packet
- xylophone mallets, snare sticks, timpani mallets

What not to bring

- wood or hard plastic mallets (we are in a small room, so medium-soft or hard rubber mallets would be best).
- personal instruments or stands, including snare drums — we are on a very tight schedule, and in order to move as quickly as possible, we will require all candidates to use the instruments already in the room

What is provided

- extra music; if you have markings in your own music, you should bring your own copy
- mallets and sticks, but we encourage you to bring what you are used to using
- 3-1/2 octave rosewood xylophone (Yamaha)
- glockenspiel (Deagan)
- tambourine
- 5x14" aluminum snare drum, cable and wire snares (Pearl)
- set of four timpani, copper, balanced action pedals (Ludwig)
- music stands
- tuning fork (A=440)

Warm-up room

There will be a warm-up room that you will be allowed to use ten minutes prior to your audition. There will be a 3-1/2 octave xylophone and a 5x14" metal snare drum in the room. Timpani will NOT be available in the warm-up room.

Required Solos: Symphony

Xylophone: Goldenberg, Etude XIII

Tempo: ♩ = 132

(♩ = 132)

The musical score is written for a single xylophone player. It consists of 11 staves of music, each containing a melodic line with rhythmic markings below it. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 132. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The rhythmic markings are as follows:

- Staff 1: L RR, L, L RR, L, L, RR
- Staff 2: R, RR, P R, L, R
- Staff 3: L, R R, L RR L L R L, R, RR R L R L R L R
- Staff 4: R R L R R L, R R L R R L, RR, L R L R L R L R
- Staff 5: L, R R, R R L, R R L R, L R
- Staff 6: R L L R R L L, L L, L, L, R R, R R L R L R R L
- Staff 7: L R R L R L R, RR, RR, RR
- Staff 8: R L, RR, L RR, L RR, L, L
- Staff 9: R, L L R R L R L, R
- Staff 10: R R L R L R R L R, R L R L R L R R R L R R L R L R L L
- Staff 11: R R, L, L R L

Required Solos: Symphony

Snare drum: Delécluse, Etude No. 1

Tempo: ♩. = 76

mf *p*

mf *f* *p*

f *p*

f *p subito* *f*

p *cresc.* *f*

p *mf* *f*

f *p*

p sub. *p*

Un poco rit. **Tempo**

mf *p*

f *p sub.* *p sub.*

cresc. *poco* *a* *poco* *f*

Required Solos: Symphony

Timpani: Peters, Etude No. 41

Tempo: ♩ = 144

The musical score consists of ten staves of music in bass clef, 5/8 time signature, and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notation includes various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. Dynamics range from piano (*p*) to fortissimo (*ff*). Articulations such as accents (>) and slurs are used throughout. The score includes several dynamic markings: *p*, *cresc.*, *poco a poco*, *f*, *ff*, *fp*, and *f*. A bracketed dynamic marking *[Eb / Eb]* appears above the fourth staff, and *[C \ B]* appears below the seventh staff. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 144.

Excerpts: Symphony

Xylophone: Kabalevsky, Colas Breugnon

Tempo: ♩ = 132

8va 39

f

Musical notation for measure 39: Treble clef, 2/4 time signature, key signature of one flat. The measure begins with a whole rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The dynamic is *f*.

(8va) 40

Musical notation for measure 40: Treble clef, 2/4 time signature, key signature of one flat. The measure begins with a sharp sign above the staff, followed by a quarter note G#4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The dynamic is *f*.

41

ff

Musical notation for measure 41: Treble clef, 2/4 time signature, key signature of one flat. The measure begins with a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4. The dynamic is *ff*.

42

sf

Musical notation for measure 42: Treble clef, 2/4 time signature, key signature of one flat. The measure begins with a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4. The dynamic is *sf*.

Excerpts: Symphony

Snare Drum: Rimsky-Korsakov, *Scheherazade*, Mvt. III

Tempo: ♩. = 63

Pochissimo più mosso ♩. = 63

D 1 2 3

p dim. *ppp*

4 5 6 7

pochissimo cresc.

8 9 **E** 8

F 4

pp

4