

# SM Independent In-Person Audition Process

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## In-Person Audition Process

The audition process will break down into two areas:

### 1. Ensemble Performance 2. Individual Evaluation

- In the ensemble environment, we will be looking for your musical mastery of the warm-up packet as well as your ability to blend, balance, and adapt. As we work through the technique program, specific explanations of approach will take place. Your ability to keep an open mind and incorporate new ways of doing things into your playing will be crucial.
- If you are asked to perform for an individual evaluation, you will perform exercises from this packet as well as other basic rudimental skills. Expect to receive immediate and detailed feedback from an instructor during your individual evaluation.

## In-Person Audition Tips

- The success of your performance at the audition will be directly related to the level of preparation of the audition material.
- Use a mirror when you practice and record yourself with some type of electronic device. Listen critically to the recording and work to perfect your performance.
- Always use a metronome, or music with a steady tempo when practicing. Battery members must be able to mark time to all material.
- Keep in mind that you are always auditioning. Be professional!
- Be sure to ask questions if you are confused about anything you are being asked.
- Prepare yourself to be involved in a tedious and competitive process. Your ability to stay mentally engaged in the process throughout the audition will be crucial.
- Strive to give off a sense of confidence in your audition. Everything is a performance, from 8 on a hand to championships. Convince us you are comfortable with what you're doing.

# SMI Front Ensemble Audition Packet

**Who Can Audition?** Anyone that is a highly motivated individual, age 14 – to the max. age required by WGI

There are lots of talented people that talk about going to auditions but never do because they are afraid of not making the ensemble. Our team is growing and there will be a lot of opportunities for you to learn and perform at the highest level. Please take every opportunity to ask questions and learn more about playing the instrument of your choice. EVERY spot in the ensemble is open and available each year to the people who audition. Absolutely no spot in the ensemble will be guaranteed to an individual until they have earned it.

## Exercises / Audition Process

Included in this packet are several exercises we will be going over during the audition process. Please come to the audition days prepared to play each scale-based exercise in **every major key** and variety of tempos. We will not have time to “spoon-feed” notes throughout the audition weekends or rehearsal weekends, so, **BE PREPARED**. You should strive to have these exercises memorized. **Please also prepare a short solo to play that will highlight your skills.** Overall, the purpose of the audition process is for you to show off what you are capable of and how well you respond to feedback - we want to see if you will be a good fit for the ensemble. Although we highly value humility, the auditions are your opportunity to show us what you've got.

The technique that we use is broken down in this packet and each person should be familiar with the terms used to describe the certain techniques (i.e., perch, rolling intervals, extended octave grip). This packet will go through the basics of setting the grip and striking the instrument with some of the different techniques that will be used.

## Mallets

Be prepared to play on all keyboard instruments throughout the audition process (Marimba, Vibraphone, Xylo, Glock).

## Synth/Electronics

Piano experience will be beneficial as you support the mallets, as well as an understanding of rhythmic accuracy and being able to adapt to the ensemble.

## Percussion (Rack, Drum set)

Have knowledge of the keyboard exercises and be ready to play “groove” rhythms and improvise with the mallet warm-ups. Having an understanding of the basic rudiment structures and interpretations will help.

## **SMI Battery Audition Packet**

**Who Can Audition?** Anyone that is a highly motivated individual, age 14 – to the max. age required by WGI

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**Exercises / Audition Process** Included in this packet are several exercises we will be going over during the audition process. Please come to the audition days prepared to play these at various tempos. We will not have time to “spoon-feed” notes throughout the audition or rehearsal weekends, so, **BE PREPARED**. You should strive to have these exercises memorized. Please also prepare a short solo to play that will highlight your skills. Overall, the purpose of the audition process is for you to show off what you are capable of and how well you respond to feedback - we want to see if you will be a good fit for the ensemble. Although we highly value humility, the auditions are your opportunity to show us what you've got.

**Audition Preparation** While practicing and preparing for auditions, there are a few things to think about. Overall, the sound you get out of the drum is the most important thing to focus on when playing. The second most important thing is timing. Great sound quality and perfect timing is what we want to achieve. The technique we use is designed to help us get those two things.

Your sticks and mallets should move fluidly while playing, and it should feel and look natural. Stay as relaxed as possible (think legato, not staccato). If you are getting tense while playing something, try to stop, figure out what part of your body got tense, then try to play it again without having that happen. Remember, it's OK to slow down and play comfortably, then build up to a good speed.

Remember to breathe, and keep your entire body as relaxed as possible, while still maintaining control over what you are doing.

Above all, have a positive attitude and have fun. Come to auditions eager to learn and get better. Ultimately, YOUR efforts will decide how great this ensemble will be this year.

## **SMI Visual Audition Packet**

**Who Can Audition?** Anyone that is a highly motivated individual, age 14 – to the max. age required by WGI

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### **Exercises / Audition Process**

Included in this packet are several exercises we will be going over during the audition process. Please come to the audition days prepared to play these at various tempos. We will not have time to “spoon-feed” notes throughout the audition or rehearsal weekends, so, **BE PREPARED**. You should strive to have these exercises memorized. Overall, the purpose of the audition process is for you to show off what you are capable of and how well you respond to feedback - we want to see if you will be a good fit for the ensemble. Although we highly value humility, the auditions are your opportunity to show us what you’ve got.

**Audition Preparation** Begin reviewing the links attached and practice along with them. Stretching, working out, and drinking water now will help you physically and provide mental confidence. Remember to breathe, and keep your entire body as relaxed as possible, while still maintaining control over what you are doing.

Above all, have a positive attitude and have fun. Come to auditions eager to learn and get better. Ultimately, YOUR efforts will decide how great this ensemble will be this year.

Please spend time getting familiar with terminology.

### **A couple of notes:**

- Mark time is full foot, close to ground, 1<sup>st</sup> position, weight is 60 front and 40 back
- We march toes down, keep toes facing forward while moving, heels up on all moves
- Keep knees/legs straight with only a small natural knee flex on all moves
- Keep chin elevated, use your eyes, not your head
- We use The Bluecoats methods