



**ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY**
Illinois' first public university

College of Fine Arts
School of Music

Centennial Building
Campus Box 5660
Normal, IL 61790-5660
Telephone: (309) 438-7631
Facsimile: (309) 438-5833

General Audition Video Recommendations:

- Since this is your audition for acceptance into the School of Music, the quality of the recording should be of utmost consideration. The quality of your recording will affect our ability to evaluate your performance and comment provide comments. A high-quality audio and video recording is expected.
- Your audition should be prepared like any professional audition.
- Dress as you would for a live audition here on campus.
- Consider your lighting, framing, and camera placement. Film in a well-lit space and be sure that there is more lighting in front of you (rather than from behind).
- Stay away from clutter and use a simple background.
- We recommend using a digital recorder/camera mounted on a tripod or stand.
- Place the camera so that you, your instrument, and your full range of motion are in the frame at all times. **When using music, be sure the music stand does not block your face, hands, or instrument.**
- Choose a medium distance that shows as much detail as possible, while still allowing the image to be framed as described above. Do not use the zoom function as this makes the image grainy or fuzzy.
- If you must use a smartphone or tablet, be sure to use it horizontally and not in "selfie" mode. Be sure to set it in Airplane mode or Do Not Disturb mode to avoid interruptions.
- Be aware of the acoustic environment in which you record.
- Review your recording(s) before you submit and check the sound level to ensure the best audio quality.
- Only unedited recordings can be accepted and should be in high fidelity stereo. Other than stopping and starting the camera between segments, no editing of the audio or video is permitted. Applicants whose videos show evidence of any cuts, splicing, manipulation of pitch, or other alteration within a performance segment will be subject to disqualification.
- **State your name, high school and major at the beginning of your audition recording.**



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Additional Percussion Audition Requirements:

- All Percussion auditionees must submit a representative solo on snare drum, marimba, and timpani.
- You may submit a 2nd piece for snare drum and/or keyboards if desired. However, the total time of audition recording not to exceed 30 minutes
 - EX: One snare drum piece could be in a concert style and the 2nd in a rudimental style. One marimba piece could be for 4-mallets and a 2nd could be for 2-mallets. For details on appropriate repertoire, see "[Audition Information](#)" on the Percussion Studio webpage for details.
- Please record each selection separately and state the title of each piece at the beginning of your recording.
 - EX: "This is Tom Drum. I will be playing Etude #6 from *Portraits in Rhythm* by Anthony Cirone."
- You may also submit a recording for drum set or ethnic percussion. See the Percussion Studio webpage for details.
- If you are auditioning for the Jazz major, be sure to read the see "Audition Information" for Jazz Drum Set and/or Jazz Vibraphone found on the Percussion Studio webpage
- For all recordings, be sure that we can see your hands, your upper body and the instrument. Place the camera high enough so that it is angled slightly down toward the instrument. It could also be placed slightly to the side. For snare drum, we want to see where the sticks are on the drum. For marimba, we want to see where your mallets are on the bars. Do not have the music stand block the view of your playing.
- Room Acoustics will definitely impact your audio recording and the quality of your audition. When recording snare drum, please record in a "dry" non-resonant location such as a finished basement, a bedroom, or any room with carpeting. This will allow the details of your playing to be clearly heard. Often, a stage or band room has too much reverb to clearly hear the details for snare drum. However, a resonant location (such as a stage) is very good for recording marimba. You may need to experiment with different rooms, camera/microphone locations, etc. to find the ideal sound.
- Choose the appropriate mallet that produces the best quality sound on the recording. This may be different than what the composer indicates.
- Always be aware of the **quality of your sound** on the **final recording**. Be sure to review your video on a computer before you send it to us.



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Audition Extras:

In the last portion of your video, please answer these questions so we get to know a bit about you.

What things in your life have led you to choose to major in music?

What guided you to choose to be major in _____ (music education, music therapy, music performance, music business, composition)?

After you graduate, where do you see yourself? OR, what do you want to do with your life?

What would you like us to know about yourself?