

What's New with Honors Band Percussion Auditions?

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What and Why?

The updates that go into effect this year to the percussion auditions for All-State Band apply only to high school students. The Honor Band Committee will observe the first few years of these new procedures before they begin looking at if any changes are needed at the middle school level.

The driving force behind the changes dealt with this essential question: are the skills demonstrated in the audition accurately reflecting the techniques that a student will need to be successful in the All-State Band? For the timpani tuning, in a rehearsal or performance setting, a student's ability to quickly and quietly pedal and retune the instrument is the skill we should be measuring. With the changing expectations for percussionists in advanced concert band literature, adding a four mallet component and auxiliary percussion instruments is the next logical step.

New Audition Material

All-Inclusive Audition Etudes - Dr. Eric Willie and Dr. Julie Hill
Row-Loff Productions

9-10 & 11-12 Timpani

- Students will bring a pitch pipe and use this to tune the drums, both for their solo and for the sight-reading.
- The Long roll will still be graded and will be performed on the 32" drum
 - ◆ This will be tuned to G2 by one of the judges in between auditions
- Following the solo, students will be instructed to clear all timpani. They will then be given forty-five seconds to tune the drums to the pitches required for sight-reading, which will be notated on the back of the music. If the student feels confident about the tuning and does not utilize the full allotted time, they may turn the music over and this will signal the beginning of their preparation time.
- After the sixty seconds of preparation time, the students will play each drum twice for adjudicators to check pitches with a tuner. Students can receive up to six points for each of the three pitches.

11-12 Mallets

- No change to the 9-10 Mallet process.
- Only change to 11-12 is the addition of a short four-mallet etude. This etude is taken from the *All-Inclusive Audition Etudes* book, and no alterations have been made to the existing two mallet solo rotation.
 - ◆ There is a recommended cut for the mallet solo in the 2019-20 rotation (*Sonatina*, Telemann) because of the syncopation between the hands in the four mallet etude for that year is a little more challenging.
- Following the performance of their scales, students will be instructed to perform the four mallet excerpt first, followed directly by the two mallet solo.
- The score breakdown will be fifteen possible points for the four mallet etude and twenty-five for the two mallet.

9-10 & 11-12 Section Percussion

- Formerly referred to as “Snare,” the name designation more accurately reflects the role the student will be playing in the ensemble.
- The *All-Inclusive Audition Etudes* selection will be performed by the students first, and will demonstrate technical facility on a snare drum part similar to one that can be found in a concert band piece. The student will then have to observe the notated rests, while maintaining tempo, as they move to the auxiliary instrument to finish the etude.
- The rotations are setup in a way that if a student auditions for All-State every year, they should play a different instrument in each audition.
 - ◆ Crash Cymbal, Tambourine, Bass Drum, Triangle
- Students can earn up to twenty-five points for their performance of the Snare / Auxiliary Etude.
- Students are expected to bring the auxiliary instrument their require to the audition (with the exception of bass drum).
- No changes have been made to the existing snare drum solo rotations.

All rotations, scripts, and score sheets can be found on the [**NCBA All-State Honors Band Audition Requirements Website**](#)

Links to Performance and Tutorial Videos for the *All-Inclusive Audition Etudes* can be found at the [**Row-Loff Website**](#)