

Questions and Answers For New UNT Percussion Students . . .

1. When are ensemble auditions?

Green Brigade Marching Band auditions and pre-season percussion will move into the dorm on August 19 with auditions (including for Indoor Drumline) on August 20. See www.music.unt.edu/windstudies for details.

Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Brass Band and Classical Percussion Ensembles round one auditions will be held Monday, August 24. This is a two round process. The Classical percussion ensembles are open to percussion concentrations/majors only. These auditions are heard by the percussion faculty.

Starting Monday, August 3rd you can email Wind Studies to schedule a round one audition time at windstudies@unt.edu. Include your name, instrument and telephone number. Round one audition requirements are to perform the snare solo, *Etude #5* from Mitchell Peters Advanced Snare Drum Studies and perform another short solo/etude on a different percussion instrument of your choice. You will also sight-read.

Orchestra round one auditions will be held Tuesday, August 25. All interested students for the percussion and timpani spots need to show up at 9 AM in MU142. Audition repertoire is posted on the percussion board and as a download on this website. This is a two round process. Second round will be heard with the round two Wind Studies auditions.

Jazz Lab Band round one auditions will be sight-reading auditions for Ed Soph on Friday, August 28th. A sign up sheet for round one sight-reading auditions will be posted on the percussion bulletin board by MU 131 in mid August.

Other Ethnic Percussion Ensembles do not require auditions. These include African Ensemble, Afro-Cuban Ensemble, Brazilian Ensemble, Contemporary Ensemble, beginning South Indian Ensemble and beginning Steel Band. In Fall 2009 the Gamelan Ensemble requires auditions with the director for acceptance. These courses are listed as MUCM 3617 for undergraduates and MUEN 5617 for graduate students. Prior skills are required for all advanced ensembles and acceptance is determined by the director.

2. What instruments do I need to bring to UNT?

A practice pad, snare drum, accessory instruments, stand and an assortment of mallets and sticks. Recommendations are in the Percussion Manual posted on the UNT Percussion website - www.music.unt.edu/percussion. You do not need a drum set unless you are enrolled in drum set lessons.

3. How do I get my private lesson instructor assignment?

Freshman and transfers who attend an orientation session will be given their lesson codes to register. When you arrive at UNT in August, go to the Percussion Area Bulletin board for important information. You will need to fill out a "Lesson Availability Form" and put it in the file box by the Percussion Office, Room 131 by Friday, August 28. You must fill in your schedule and leave blank available times for private instruction. Be sure to provide all contact information requested. Lesson assignments will be posted on Tuesday, September 1 on the percussion bulletin board and lessons begin on Thursday, September 3.

4. Will I get to study privately with the percussion faculty?

We are fortunate at UNT to have faculty that can specialize on their instruments. Timpani, vibraphone, drumset, snare and marimba are all taught by our percussion faculty. We have five faculty, six adjunct faculty and five graduate teaching fellows in our percussion area. UNT maintains approximately 100 percussion majors and concentrations. With many performance opportunities available at North Texas, the size of the percussion area is essential to the College of Music. The College of Music has approximately 1700 majors each year.

Our program is designed for each student to take two half hour lessons each semester on two different percussion instruments with different teachers. The Percussion Manual has the suggested course of study on page seven for the different degrees. In the first semester many freshman will start off with major professors. Some will study mallets and snare with graduate teaching fellows, but will quickly move to major professors by their second semester. All incoming students take a methods class with Mr. Ford their first semester of study at UNT.

Also the percussion ensembles (of which there are fifteen), with the exception of one classical and one steel band, are taught by our percussion faculty. You will have many opportunities to study with our outstanding faculty while at UNT.

5. How do I find out my level for lessons?

Your teacher will determine your level during the first week of lessons. Lessons begin Thursday, September 3. It is recommended that freshmen buy Level 1 mallet and snare books.

6. Percussion Departmental Recitals?

All percussion majors and concentrations are required to attend percussion departmental recitals every Friday at 1:00 p.m. in the Recital Hall. This is part of your private lesson grade. Guest artists for the Percussion Club are also scheduled during this time. Be sure to leave 1-3 p.m. free in your Friday schedule.

7. What about practice rooms and Percussion Club dues?

Practice rooms are available to rent each semester. Timpani, vibraphone and marimba rooms are \$17 each per semester. Private rooms for student owned drum sets are available for rent for \$50 per semester if enrolled in private drum set lessons, in a jazz lab or if space is available. Steel band keys are \$30, excerpt room are \$45 and recital rooms are \$45. Percussion Club dues are \$30 per semester. These dues pay for guest artist clinics and concerts during the semester. Signs will be posted on the bulletin board for exact rental dates and times.

8. How do I accomplish everything there is to do at the UNT College of Music?

The opportunities available at the UNT College of Music are vast. The performance level of students you will have the opportunity to perform with is outstanding. Remember to pace yourself. It is easy to spread yourself too thin by saying "yes" to every performance opportunity and joining in too many ensembles. You are here to reap the benefits UNT has to offer and contribute to an outstanding music program. Keep your time manageable, make good music and enjoy!

If you have further questions regarding our program please contact us at unt.percussion@unt.edu