

2026 Percussion Applicant Guide

How to Apply:

To apply for the orchestra program, applicants will upload a video audition consisting of the components listed below.

1. Solo Piece for Two- or Four-Mallet Marimba of Applicant's Choice

A variety of repertoire is acceptable, and applicants should select a piece they are comfortable playing.

- Work of applicant's choice that demonstrates overall musicianship
- Maximum of one minute in length
- Must provide a copy of the selected work for the audition
- Does NOT have to be memorized
- No accompaniment

2. Selected Snare Excerpt

Portraits in Rhythm by Cirone, Belwin Mills

p. 5 #3; Moderato maestoso

3. Selected Xylophone Orchestral Excerpt

Appalachian Spring by Aaron Copland

5 measures after 48 to 4 measures after 49

4. Selected Timpani Excerpt (with tuning)

Twenty Studies for Timpani by Jaques Delecluse

p. 10-11 #8; (m 27-93)

Please record yourself tuning the timpani as part of this audition component. Be sure to knock the timpani out of tune to start and then begin the excerpt immediately follow the tuning portion. Please do not edit the video.

Choosing a Location:

- Choose a neat, neutral background for your video.
- Eliminate any moving/noisy elements in the room that might distract from your audition (e.g., circulating fan).
- Face the primary light source in the room (e.g., a window) to ensure you are well lit from the front. The darkest part of the room should be behind you.

Recording Guidelines:

- Position the camera at eye level, approximately six feet away so the evaluator can clearly see both you and your full instrument.
- Audition videos should show the applicant's entire playing area—including hands, face, torso, and instrument—and the applicant should face the camera throughout the recording.
- If possible, have a helper start and stop the recording. If you need to start/stop the video yourself, that is completely fine—evaluators do not mind seeing you walk to and from the camera. It's much more important that the playing portion offers a full, unobstructed view of you and your instrument.
- Do NOT introduce yourself or give any other identifying information in your video recording.
- Wear clothing appropriate for an audition:
 - **DO** wear comfortable, neutral attire. A simple, solid-colored shirt, jeans, pants, or a long skirt are recommended.
 - **DON'T** wear garments that distract from your performance. Examples of inappropriate audition attire include garments that are graphic, shredded, torn, too revealing, or too tight (e.g., pajamas, crop tops, ripped jeans, shirts with characters/logos/words, or short shorts/skirts).

Video Upload Tips:

You may upload each element separately, but each video should be unedited. Please label each file with the component name (e.g., Snare Excerpt).

Some phones—especially iPhones—save videos in formats that our application platform can't read, which can cause your file to upload backwards, upside down, or not at all. If your file won't upload, it is almost always because of the file type.

For videos, MP4 or MOV files are best.

If you took your audition videos on an iPhone, your phone may save it as HEVC (video) file, and these often won't upload correctly on our application platform. We recommend first converting it to MP4/MOV file, then uploading. See tips for converting your file/s below.

Option 1: Use a converter website

- Search for "HEVC to MP4" (videos).
- Upload → convert → download → then upload to your application.

Option 2: Use a computer

- Move the file to a computer; videos usually convert automatically when moved to a computer.



Evaluation Criteria:

PLEASE NOTE: OSAI audition scores may be used to determine chamber music or orchestra part assignments, so prepare for the OSAI audition accordingly.

Marimba Solo, Snare Excerpt, and Timpani Excerpt – 60%

Does the applicant demonstrate a high level of artistry and musicality, including well-shaped phrases and dynamics performed with expression and musical character? For timpani, is tuning accurate on all drums?

Overall Tone – 13.3%

Does the applicant demonstrate a tone quality characteristic of the instrument with an even tone quality between hands? Does the applicant exhibit proper stick/mallet placement and mallet choice?

Overall Technique – 13.3%

Does the applicant display accurate rolls, accents, ornamentation, and use of style markings?

Overall Rhythm – 13.3%

Does the applicant use a consistent tempo and accurate rhythms throughout?

Read general information about our evaluation process here:

<https://oaiquartz.org/application-selection-process>

Selected Snare Excerpt

3

Moderato maestoso $\text{♩} = 69$

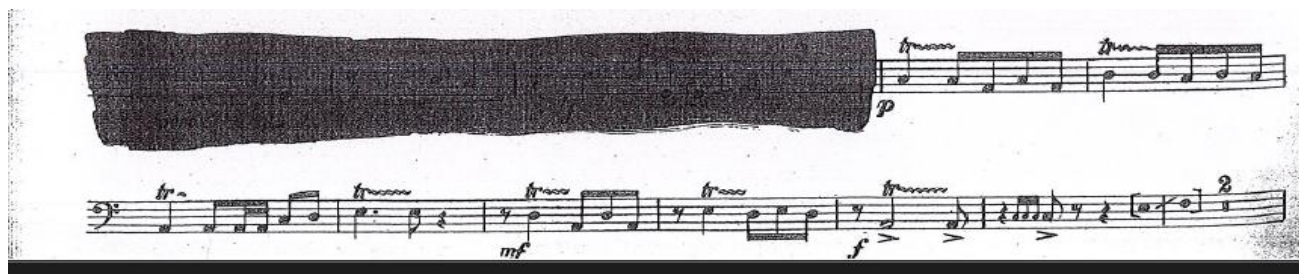
1. *f* *p*
2. *f* *sfz* *pp*
3. *ff* *p* *RD RD*
4. *ff* *mf* *ff*
5. *mf* *pp* *f*
6. *fp < f* *fp < f* *fp < f* *fp < f* *pp*
7. *mf > pp* *mf > pp* *morendo* *G. P.*
8. *A tempo* *f* *p*
9. *f* *sfz* *pp*
10. *ff* *fp < ff* *pp*
11. *ff*

Orchestral Excerpt- Appalachian Spring (5 measures after 48 to 4 measures after 49)



The musical score consists of three staves. The first staff begins with a red bracket and the marking *secco ff*. The second staff ends with the marking *ff*. The third staff begins with a measure number box containing '49' and the marking *sf*. The third staff concludes with a red bracket. The music is written in treble clef and features various rhythmic patterns and dynamic markings.

Selected Timpani Excerpt (with tuning)



A C D F

11

Handwritten notes and markings on the score include: "A C D F" above the first staff; "LL", "LRLR", and "4" below the second, third, and fourth staves; "cresc." below the fifth staff; "dim." below the sixth staff; and "3" below the eighth staff.