Large Ensemble Placement Auditions
(Percussion)

SPRING 2022

Each semester, all percussion majors are required to audition for placement in large ensembles (orchestra, wind ensemble, and concert band). Approximately one month before the semester begins, students will be given a packet (in PDF form) of standard orchestral/band excerpts for students to prepare on their own. Students will perform these excerpts for a faculty jury consisting of at least 2 percussion faculty members, likely more. The auditions will be screened, meaning the jury will not see, only hear, each performer. The students will receive a score based on their preparation and performance (along with comments) and be placed in ensembles based on the outcome of the studio audition. Those that place higher will have first choice of ensembles over those that place lower. These results are also often used to decide matters such as part assignments, extra performance opportunities, ensemble tour personnel, etc.

Classical Audition Material

All excerpts are from Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker (full version, not the suite)

**Snare Drum**
- No. 7 Scene (all)

**Bells**
- No. 9 Valse des Flocons de Neige (E to the end)

**Timpani**
- No. 15 Valse Finale (8 before H to the end)

**Cymbals**
- No. 12 Divertissement: e) Les Mirlitons (C to E)
- Coda (17 before C to the end)

**Triangle**
- No. 13 Valse des Fleurs (L to the end)

**Tambourine**
- No. 12 Divertissement: d) Trepak (all)

**Ratchet**
- No. 5 Scene et Danse du Gross-Vater (8 before C to 8 after C)

**Castanets**
- No. 12 Divertissement: a) Le chocolat (all)

How to Properly Prepare an Excerpt 101

First, listen to at least three different versions of each work in its original form (no arrangements, transcriptions, alternate versions, etc). Make note of any important information such as tempo, dynamics, timbre (mallet choices), articulation (especially important for timpani, cymbals, etc), feel, phrasing, and so on. If you find different interpretations choose the way you will play based on what is most often heard or expected (and secondly, personal preference). Try to listen to reputable recordings (ie, Philadelphia Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, etc). The second step is to learn the excerpts methodically and meticulously - there is no room for error in an orchestral audition. During this time period it is important to address technical concerns you may have with your playing. Take a look inside your playing and see what is stopping you from playing a certain passage the way you would like. Fundamental skills are paramount in successfully preparing such an audition. Finally, begin playing along to your favorite recordings while trying to carefully fit your playing into the orchestra. This is an important step not to be skipped. Repeat all steps and approach each passage from as many different angles as possible.
Timpani and Percussion

No. 9 Valse des Flocons de Neige

133 E Glockenspiel

142 poco cresc.

150 Triangle

165 F Timpani

171 poco cresc.

177 mf
No.9 Valse
Timpani and Percussion

374

384

399
pp cresc. poco a poco

add B.D.

No.15 Valse Finale
Timpani and Percussion

Coda

Vivace assai \( \frac{4}{4} = 168 \)

\[\begin{array}{c}
\text{Violin 1} \\
\text{Cymbals} \\
\text{Trombone} \\
\end{array}\]

Timpani

Cymbals

Timpani

(add B.D.)

Cymbals
d) Trèpak

Tempo di trepak, molto vivace $\cdot r = 152$

Violin 1

Timpani

Tamb.

Stringendo

Prestissimo sempre $\text{fff}$