

Liberty University Percussion and Drum Set Studio

Audition Preparation

Percussion/Drum Studies at LU. What to Expect...

At Liberty, students are afforded the choice of a "primary" instrument as their main instrument of study. Percussionists may choose between Concert Percussion (i.e. snare drum, mallets, timpani, aux. perc., etc.) or Drum Set. However, in keeping with our mission statement, every student in the percussion studio will cycle through studies on concert percussion, drum set, world percussion, and auxiliary percussion instruments, regardless of their degree or primary instrument designation. We believe in developing "total percussionists" who are versatile enough to be successful in a wide range of musical situations. The ability to be a "jack of all trades" is precisely what is most important in today's market. Therefore, all students in the percussion studio are trained to be proficient in four main areas:

Music Performance
Music Education
Composition/Arranging
Music Industry/Entrepreneurship

Auditions

In keeping with our commitment to the pursuit of the highest musical standards, all students must audition to be eligible for enrollment in applied percussion/drum set lessons. Auditions consist of two parts: performance and an interview. Performance expectations as well as repertoire and proficiency guidelines are outlined in the *Liberty University Percussion and Drum Set Studio Audition Document*. The interview will consist of questions pertaining to your prior musical training and experience, personal and spiritual background, as well as an opportunity for you to ask questions you may have regarding the program/SOM.

Scheduling Your Audition:

Auditions should be scheduled/submitted between September and May.

For students intending to enroll in classes in the Spring, we ask that your audition be completed/submitted by November 1. For those intending to enroll in classes in the Fall, we ask that your audition be completed/submitted by May 1. Live auditions may be scheduled by contacting Prof. Jay Ware or students may submit an audition link via YouTube, Vimeo, or other online media. For all video/online submissions, the student should perform and record all repertoire for required instruments in one take, with no edits or breaks in the performance. This keeps the performance standard consistent for live and video audition submissions. **February is generally the deadline for scholarship consideration for the following academic year.**

Audition Repertoire and Instrument Proficiencies

In keeping with our mission statement, every student in the percussion studio will cycle through studies on concert percussion and drum set (as well as world percussion and hand percussion instruments), regardless of their degree or primary instrument designation. For this reason, proficiencies on three of the four major instrument groups: snare drum, mallets, timpani, and drum set are required as part of the audition. **Those pursuing Concert Percussion as their primary instrument are expected to perform requested repertoire for snare drum, mallets, and timpani; while drum set is optional. For those pursuing Drum Set as their primary instrument, drum set, snare drum, and your choice of timpani OR mallets are required.** Please consult the *Liberty University Percussion and Drum Set Studio Audition Document* and direct any questions to Prof. Jay Ware.

Preparation Advice and Recommended Timeline:

- **Start your preparations as early as possible!**
- Download and consult the *Liberty University Percussion and Drum Set Studio Audition Document*
- Attend a College for A Weekend (CFAW) event, talk with SOM professors, and meet with current percussion/drum set students in the studio!
- Work with an experienced music teacher and/or percussion instructor to select and prepare appropriate repertoire for your audition.
- **Have repertoire selected and music scholarship application completed no less than 2 months in advance of your preferred audition month.**
- **Schedule your audition at least one month in advance** by contacting Prof. Ware.
- Contact Prof. Ware to set up a FREE lesson (in-person or online) at least one month prior to your audition (if an in-person lesson, it could coincide with your CFAW visit) and perform some of your audition repertoire. This affords you the opportunity to get feedback and implement concepts into your practice sessions in advance of your audition.
- Be extremely well prepared: musically, logistically, and personally. Once you have mastered your pieces one at a time, practice performing all of them as a mock-audition. Record yourself (video and/or audio) throughout this process and review your performances.
- Be prepared to answer questions about your prior musical experience, faith and spiritual background, and career aspirations/goals.

The Audition and Interview

- Complete (typed) and bring **3 copies** of the following to your audition:
 - *LU Percussion/Drum Set Performance Adjudication Form*
 - All repertoire you will be performing for your audition.
- Attire should be **professional** and not draw attention to yourself. No bold colors, t-shirts, jeans, tennis shoes, flip flops, etc.
- Arrive at least 15 minutes early to your audition. You may warm-up in one of the drum set/percussion practice rooms, but please be outside the Percussion Lab (Room 014) and ready to go no later than 15 minutes prior to your selected slot.
- Have all materials (sticks/mallets, packets with completed forms and copies of musical selections, etc.) ready to go when you enter the Percussion Lab (014). Once you enter, the audition has officially begun!
- Enter the room and walk with purpose (not casually). Greet the panel like you would for a job interview, hand the audition panel members your prepared packets, and then set up.
- You will be given 3 minutes to adjust any instruments, place your music, and get a quick sound check for those performing with audio tracks. CHECK THE SNARES to make sure they are OFF or ON respectively before you perform!
- If you will be performing with audio tracks, make sure you have a device with a 3.5mm or 1/8" audio input/output jack and all tracks are loaded onto this device. It is highly recommended you check to make sure all audio will play properly prior to your audition.
- You will be asked, "What would you like to perform first?" This is your opportunity to start off strong! Be ready! Ideally, you will have placed this selection at the front of your repertoire packets.
- Once you begin performing, **do not stop** unless asked by a member of the panel.
- After your performance, the panel will conduct a brief interview. Questions will be asked regarding your: academic standing (Have you applied? Accepted?, etc.), prior musical experience, spiritual background, and career goals.
- Some time will be afforded for any questions you may have. When you leave the room, please notify the next person you are done and hold the door for them as they enter.

Music Scholarships:

Information regarding all LUSOM music scholarships can be found online at our SOM website: www.liberty.edu/music as well as the SOM Student Handbook. **Scholarship applications must be completed prior to the designated deadline and auditions should occur by the recommended dates listed above (see “Scheduling Your Audition”).** Prospective Percussion/Drum Set Student consideration for scholarships is based on the following criteria:

1. Performance Score
2. Instrument Proficiencies
3. Date of Audition

Audition Results

Results of auditions are usually reported via the email address provided by the prospective student within a few weeks after the audition. If awarded a scholarship, an Associate Dean of the SOM will notify the individual and will require a response from the student to accept/decline before moving forward.

To schedule an audition or if you have questions regarding audition requirements, please contact:

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