

Music Department Audition Requirements: Percussion

In-person Audition/Interview

Once Algoma University receives applications, a Music Department representative will contact applicants in order to schedule audition/interviews. Candidates should bring copies of all music scores to their audition. Requirements include:

Repertoire

Candidates should prepare two contrasting selections chosen from works written for:

- snare drum
- mallet instrument
- drum set

Works should demonstrate the full extent of a candidate's musical and technical ability. If desired, one of the selections can be a study. Minimum level: intermediate (RCM grades 4 through 7). **Please note:** if a candidate is studying at a level below RCM grade 4, an audition is still recommended and encouraged, as often, the Music Department is able to recommend admittance to the Music Program based on exceptional promise, rhythmic sophistication, overall artistry and commitment. Students who have not received training in the Royal Conservatory's graded system are encouraged to apply and audition, in view of the fact that Music Department percussion faculty can make accurate level assessments regardless of musical background or genres performed.

Technique

Candidates should demonstrate technical facility in the execution of the following technical requirements. All technical tests must be performed with maximum rhythmic control, using alternate sticking whenever possible.

Scales and arpeggios (on a mallet instrument)

- One major scale and one minor scale (harmonic and melodic forms), in keys of the candidate's choice, played one octave ascending and descending, in eighth notes, at metronome speed quarter note = 90.
- One major and one minor arpeggio, in keys of the candidate's choice, played one octave, ascending and descending, in triplet eighth notes at metronome speed quarter note = 60.

Rudiments

Candidates should be prepared to play the following rudiments at a moderate, even March tempo, and in an *open* (slow) to *close* (fast) to *open* (slow):

- No. 1: Single stroke roll
- No. 2: Single stroke four
- No. 3: Single stroke seven
- No. 4: Multiple bounce roll
- No. 5: Triple stroke roll
- No. 6: Double stroke open roll
- No. 7: Five stroke roll
- No. 8: Six stroke roll
- No. 9: Seven stroke roll
- No. 10: Nine stroke roll
- No. 16: Single paradiddle
- No. 17: Double paradiddle
- No. 18: Triple paradiddle
- No. 20: Flam
- No. 21: Flam accent
- No. 22: Flam tap
- No. 23: Flamacue
- No. 24: Flam paradiddle
- No. 31: Drag
- No. 32: Single drag tap
- No. 41: Single stroke triplet

Sight Reading

Candidates will be asked to sight read a simple six to twelve measure piece approximately equal in difficulty to repertoire at the Grade 3 level (RCM). Rhythmic continuity will be expected in addition to observance of musical elements such as dynamics and tempo changes.

Interview

Faculty will inquire regarding a candidate's musical experiences and goals. Candidates are encouraged to ask questions regarding Algoma's programs, financial aid packages, course offerings, Music faculty credentials, transfer options, campus structure and life, student accomplishments, residences and low cost living options in the beautiful city of Sault Ste. Marie. Possible questions asked by faculty include:

- For how long have you played percussion instruments?
- How many of those years (total, not including any breaks) included private lessons?
- Do you play any other instruments?
- With which ensembles have you been involved (if any)?
- How and where did you acquire your background in music theory?

- Have you taken any practical or theory examinations through organizations such as the Royal Conservatory of Music?
 - If so, what were the results of those examinations?

- What are your musical interests and goals?

Video Auditions

While in-person auditions are preferred and recommended, if a live audition is impractical due to distance or otherwise, Algoma Music Department can accept DVD's or auditions performed via SKYPE. Audition DVD's should be sent to Dr. Edward Turgeon, Director of Music, Algoma University, 1520 Queen Street East, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, P6A 2G4

Scholarships

In addition to Algoma University's generous scholarships, awards and bursaries (such as the bronze, silver, gold and platinum renewable entrance scholarships), the Music Department is often able to offer additional assistance on the basis of audition merit.