

B7 Advanced Percussion
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In office on B Days, and A1-A2

A. Course Description

This class serves as a rehearsal space to prepare those who wish to pursue percussion in college, and for those that are interested in learning advanced percussion concepts. Students in this class should be proficient in 4-mallet studies, rudimental/orchestral snare drumming, accessories (tambourine, cymbals, triangle), and timpani. The group performs at the Winter Concert, Spring Concert, Region/State Band Festival, Region/State Solo and Ensemble, Percussion Spring Concert, and competes at the Utah Day of Percussion where the group has placed 1st the last two years.

B. Materials, Supplies, Fees

Students are expected to have 2 pairs of matching yarn mallets (See list), orchestral snare drum sticks, a black hand towel to set extra sticks, triangle beaters, and mallets on during rehearsal, and will be required to purchase a solo for instrument of choice to perform at Regional Solo and Ensemble. Percussion instruments are provided by the school with an alpine district rental fee of \$70.00. This fee is meant to cover damages obtained through typical wear and tear from use. For example, if a marimba bar cracks it could cost several hundred dollars to replace that one bar. Likewise, drum heads deteriorate, cymbals crack, and we need to be able to replace these items for future students. If an instrument is damaged due to negligence, the student may be responsible for damages. Percussion instruments are extremely expensive and it is imperative that we take care of the equipment we have. There is also a \$50.00 District Participation Fee collected for all music classes that goes towards transportation to events, festivals, adjudication, and music.

All students will need two 3 ring binders. Your materials for this class consists of material I have compiled from various sources as well materials contributed by myself. You need to have this everyday, as this will serve for much of our classroom activity outside of ensemble pieces. No materials will be handed out until you have at least one 3 ring binder.

Please see list below for preferred stick and mallet options. You do get what you pay for with percussion equipment, so if you are serious about percussion I would recommend a signature model stick or mallet. These are typically performer's series and produce a much better sound than other mallets. However, this is not required, merely a suggestion. Most items can be purchased from online stores like www.Steveweiss.com if not in stock with local retailers.

Snare Drum Sticks

Vic Firth SD1 General

Vic Firth Symphonic Ted Atkatz

Innovative Percussion CL1L Chris Lamb

Cooperman Graham C. Johns (Persimmon or Rosewood)

Cooperman Nick Patrella (Persimmon or Rosewood)

Yarn Mallets

Medium Hard is a good general mallet, that I recommend. However, a student's solo may dictate their mallet choice. For example, a slow piece will most likely require a softer mallet, whereas a faster piece needs more articulation so all notes may be heard. So in this case, a hard or very hard may be necessary.

Malletech Michael Burritt MB13

Vic Firth Robert Van Sice Medium Hard

Marimba One DHB2 (Great mallets even though not technically a signature series....pricey)

Innovative Mark Ford IP803 Legato Medium Hard

Vic Firth M183 Multi-Application

If interested in playing a Vibraphone solo, see me about mallet choices.

Black Towels

These can be purchased from most retail stores such as Target or Walmart for about \$3.00-\$4.00. The only requirement is that it is a hand towel, and not a wash cloth or bath towel. This size is ideal for putting on a music stand.

It is recommended but not required that all students purchase a stick bag to keep all playing implements. This helps to keep all items safe and accounted for and range from large bags for the aspiring college percussionists, such as Humes and Berg TX8006, to smaller bags such as Vic Firth standard stick bag. This is up to your discretion. However, I went through 7 or 8 smaller bags spending close to \$200 dollars over the course of 5 years, then purchased The Humes and Berg TX8006 for \$60.00 which has lasted me currently for 8 years and still going strong.

Mirrors

Each student will be required to purchase 48" by 12" mirror to practice with. These mirrors can be purchased from stores like Walmart for as little as \$6.00. Do not use a mirror that requires you to be right next to it! Ex: Bathroom mirror with a drum pad on the counter. This does not give you the correct perspective to work on your technique. It is important that you can step back at least 5 or 6 feet and watch yourself. These mirrors will stay at your house to be used for practice, and your purchase will be verified by receipt. If you already have one of these mirrors, I will need documentation from a parent. Later in the year, I may have you bring your mirror to school to work on technique during class time.

C. Concerts

All concerts are required in order to pass the class with a few unique circumstances allowed for absences. The group performs in **concert black** when playing with the Wind Ensemble and **all black** when having a percussion only performance. Students may wear the same pants, shoes, and socks for both concerts, but will need a long sleeve black button down for percussion concerts. In order to ensure that all dress is the same, a bidding process is taking place, and all items will be purchased from the same vendor. Measuring and ordering will take place at the beginning of the term and is \$120 for the men and \$75 for the ladies. If you have played with the Wind Ensemble in the past, your current concert attire is fine. If you are new to the group but have concert black that you think may work, please find a time to bring it to school so I may assess it.

D. Grading and Attendance

This class is mostly participation based and all students must be present as often as possible in order for the group to play well. Many percussion pieces only have 1 person per part, so attendance is essential to achieve success.

Participation is not simply showing up.

In order to receive full attendance credit you must come to class on time, set up your equipment for the day in a timely manner, put things back where they belong, be engaged during class, be prepared with the material we will be covering during class.

No cell phones allowed during class! Even if you are not playing on a piece that we may be rehearsing, you are expected to do things percussion related during percussion class time. This may include soft practice, such as pillow drumming or arm drumming, or I may assign you material to be learned by the end of class and send you to a practice room.

Important attendance information:

- Attendance is based not only on being in class, but on when the students are set up and ready to play.
- The amount of time needed will vary from piece to piece, and activity to activity. We will establish the amount of time for each piece or activity and then it is your responsibility to set up within the given time frame.
- ALL students are responsible for setting up ALL equipment. So if you have 1 item to get and someone else has 8 things, HELP the person with 8 things!
- If a student misses too many days of class, they may be removed from their part for the remainder of the semester.
- Students must not miss rehearsal during the 3 classes leading up to a performance. Things change often during rehearsals, so if you are not present for the classes leading up to a performance, you may miss something very important, and not be able to perform with the group. I understand that sickness happens. Unless it is extremely contagious, I ask that you come to class even if it is the only class you come to on that day.
- Students MUST be present at all performances! Everything is on the calendar (www.thunderband.com), and listed below, no conflicts, no excuses! Even sickness is

not a valid excuse to miss a performance. As a musician on any level, you are part of a team and you must be present when it is time to play. Whereas the band may have 6 trumpets on a part, we often have only 1 person to a part. This makes it imperative that you show up on time, prepared.

Other assignments include solo and ensemble (required!), listening reports on percussion ensemble pieces and band pieces, other written assignments TBA

E. Weekly Sectionals

This after school rehearsal time is meant to focus on chamber pieces. With the amount of time allocated for class, we simply do not have time to set up 4 pieces that utilize everyone. Because of this, we will have 2-3 full ensemble pieces that we rehearse during class time and 2-3 chamber pieces that will be rehearsed at these after school sectionals. There will be select groups from each class that will be chosen by chair placement to play certain chamber pieces that will be coached by Mr. Megginson. However, ALL students in Intermediate and Advanced Percussion are expected to participate in a chamber piece to play for our Spring Percussion Concert. So if you do not get to play on one of the selected pieces, you must pick a group of 2-5 students and choose a piece to play. The rehearsals for the pieces coached by Mr. Megginson will begin on tuesday November 14th, and will last from 2:30-4:30. I require an hour and a half of rehearsal time. If we are set-up by 2:30 then we will be done by 4:00. But if it takes us until 3:00 to get setup then we will rehearse until 4:30. This year, Advanced meets on tuesdays, and Intermediate meets on thursdays. Because these pieces only rehearse once a week, the participation points are weighted for these rehearsals. If one rehearsal is missed we are a week behind, and then must work even harder to catch up. If you do miss rehearsal, I will need an excuse from a parent in order to not have the points count against you. Anymore than one absence will result in your part being reassigned to someone else.

These sectionals will take place as long as they need to. If you work on the pieces outside of sectional time then we can be done with the piece sooner, and you can get back many of your afternoons. **But at Westlake, we work until the job is done.** It is up to you when the job is done.

This weekly sectional time may also be designated to work on large ensemble pieces as needed prior to concerts. If this occurs, you will be given several weeks notice to plan accordingly.

Student led chamber groups may have to select a different afternoon to meet because of equipment restrictions. So once your group and piece has been selected, discuss a time that works the best for all of you.

F. Pass-Offs

Every two weeks on the first meeting of class, students will have an in class pass-off to serve as verification of practice outside of class. I will assign certain portions of our ensemble pieces for many of the pass-offs. If nothing is assigned, then you are to find something from our percussion book, or some of your piece for that you will be

playing for solo and ensemble. If we cannot have in class pass-offs due to rehearsal conflict with the band, pass-offs will occur on our next class meeting.

G. Advancing Through Classes

In order to advance through the percussion classes, you must be able to play through the required material for each level. This material can be found in our percussion book that I have compiled from various sources, as well as contributions from myself. All material should be hole punched and placed in a 3 ring binder.

H. Information on Skyward and Social Media

Throughout the year, I will make videos explaining various technique and performance concepts. My goal is to give you all of the information to be successful. You just have to have the initiative to use that information. The videos will be accessible by link only and the link will be sent to your skyward message box. You will also have homework assignments that will require you to watch videos and follow the instructions for particular assignments.

We do have a percussion ensemble facebook page that I encourage students to join. This is a private group and can be found by searching **Westlake Thunder Percussion Ensembles**. On this page, I will post reminders, rehearsal info, as well as educational videos that may be helpful to our ensemble

I. Practice Time Outside of Class

It is recommended that students schedule time as often as possible to stay after school and work on our keyboard instruments, timpani, and orchestral snare drums. This year, your practice time will be validated by in class pass-offs. So it is absolutely necessary that you spend time outside of class practicing.

Just figure out what times you would like to practice, then check with myself or Mr. Mangelson to make sure we will be around. If I am around (which I am almost always here until at least 5:00), I am always happy to help you with whatever it is you are working on. All you have to do is ask. Believe it or not, I am here to help you and make you better; Not criticize you for the things you need to work on. :) This year I will be at Vista Heights Middle School during A3 and A4. So on A Days I will be late getting back to my office in the afternoon. However, there is almost always a staff member present in the bandroom in the afternoon. If you would like my help with something make sure to set a date and time with me to make sure I will be available.

J. Equipment and Maintenance

We are ALL responsible for our equipment. if you see something left out or not where it belong, **PUT IT AWAY**, and tell me what was left out or misplaced. **DO NOT wait for someone else to put things away.** This is how things go missing. Or even worse; is stolen. If an instrument or percussion item goes missing, **ALL STUDENTS** will be responsible for paying for it. The cost of the item will be divided among the number

of students and you will then have to pay that fee to your school account. Percussion items are more expensive than you think, and you are very lucky to have some **AMAZING** equipment that sounds great. For example, both of our good tambourines are \$170.00 instruments. We have 2 triangles that cost \$80.00 each. This also applies to mallets and sticks that are owned by the school. If something breaks from normal use, that is fine, and just something that happens. But if it breaks from playing incorrectly, or fooling around, the individual responsible will be charged. But, if no one accepts responsibility, everyone will be charged. Do not wait for something to break before you tell me it needs to be fixed. Make sure nothing is breaking or falling apart regularly so we can fix problems before they happen.

Other things you should absolutely NOT DO:

- Do not over-tighten stands. Tighten them just enough to hold the stand in place. This will strip the stand and ruin it.
- Make sure cymbals ALWAYS have the appropriate protection from cymbal stands before putting them on cymbal stands. This includes a plastic sleeve, a felt beneath the cymbal, a felt on top of the cymbal, and a wing nut on top of the felt. If you fail to do this, you could seriously damage our cymbals. Some of which cost \$500.00 or more.
- Never leave anything out...EVER. Even if you are not responsible for taking it out of the percussion room. Students outside of percussion will pick up percussion items all the time because they have no idea how much they cost. Ex: I have found a \$80.00 set of mallets in a math class before.

K. Stick and Mallet Check Out

If you use school mallets or sticks outside of class time, you are to write down the model, date, time checked out, and time checked back in. The check out form can be found on the clipboard in the percussion room, by the stick bag. This is our normal procedure. If you don't follow procedure and the mallets disappear or break, the individual or the group may be responsible for replacing them, depending on the situation.

L. Solo and Ensemble

All students will be required to play either a solo or participate in a chamber piece outside of material I hand out for class for our school Solo and Ensemble night on 2/21. You will tell me what piece you or your group is playing no later than 10/9. Below is a list of a few suggested solo pieces based on skill level and instrument. If interested in a chamber piece using 2-5 players, do some youtube research and find something you like. Please choose as early as possible so you have plenty of time to prepare. You will not be graded on outcome. But you will be graded on preparation and participation. So if you or your group are not prepared, your grade will reflect that.

Marimba

Beginner

Mitchell Peters- Yellow After the Rain
Mitchell Peters- Waves
Mitchell Peters- Tear Drops
Alice Gomez- Rain Dance
Rebecca Kite- For Alice
Alice Gomez- Mbira Song

Beginner to Intermediate

Mark Ford- Marimba, Technique Through Music
Nebojsa Zivkovic- Funny Mallets Vol.1
Murray Houlliff- Six Estudios
David Friedman- Mirror From Another (Vibraphone)
Paul Smadbeck- Virginia Tate

Intermediate

Keiko Abe- Frogs
Keiko Abe- Michi
Keiko Abe- Memories of the Seashore
Gordon Stout- Two Mexican dances
Paul Smadbeck- Rhythm Song
Tim Huesgen- Trilogy (Vibraphone)
Eric Sammut- Four Rotations
Michael Burritt- Preludes 1-6
Takatsuga Muramatsu- Land
Blake Tyson- A Cricket Sang and Set the Sun
Adam Hopper- Ghost Garden
Nils Rohwer- Butterfly
Nebojsa Zivkovic- Ilijas
Emanuel Sejourne- Nancy
Emmanuel Sejourne- Katamiya
Aram Khachaturian Arr. Leigh Howard Stevens - The Adventures of Ivan
Mark Glentworth- Blues for Gilbert (Vibraphone)

Advanced

Nebojsa Zivkovic- Ultimatum
Nebojsa Zivkovic- Magma
Dave Hall- Apocalyptic Etude
Eric Sammut- Cameleon
Emmanuel Sejourne- Prelude No.1
Keiko Abe- Dream of the Cherry Blossoms
Keiko Abe- Variations on Japanese Children's Songs
Minoru Miki- Time for Marimba
Kazunori Miyake- Chain

David Maslanka- Variations on Lost Love
Eckhard Kopetzki- 3 Movements for Solo Dancer

Eckhard Kopetski- Kaskada

Leigh Howard Stevens- Rhythmic Caprice
Kevin Bobo- Gordon's Bicycle
Claude Debussy- Doctor Gradus as Parnassum
Gordan Stout- Rumble Strips
Mark Ford- Polaris
Kevin Bobo- Rhythmic Jambalaya
Eric Sammutt- Libertango

Extremely Advanced

Joseph Schwantner- Velocities
John Serry- Night Rhapsody
Alejandro Vaino- Burritt Variations
Alejandro Vaino- Khan Variations
John Psathas- One Study One Summary
Andrew Thomas- Merlin

Snare Drum

Beginner-Intermediate Etudes

Garwood Whaley- Musical Studies for the Intermediate Snare Drummer

Intermediate Etudes

Anthony Cirone- Portraits in Rhythm
Benjamin Podemski- Standard Snare Drum Method

Advanced Etudes

Jacques Delecluse- Douze Etudes pour Caisse Claire

Intermediate Snare Drum Solos

Warren Benson- Three Dances for Solo Snare Drum
Michael Colgrass- Six Unaccompanied Solos for Snare Drum

Advanced Snare Drum Solos

Askeell Masson- Prim
Askeell Masson- Kim
Nicolas Martyniow- Tchik
Ben Wahlund- Whimsical Nature of Small Particle Physics
Jason Baker- Lonely City Suite
Kevin Bobo Tantrum

Nils Rohwer- 2012 DA 14
Anthony Di Bartolo- Bounce
Alexej Gerassimez- Asventuras for Snare Drum
Andy Akiho- Stop Speaking

This is just a small list of possible pieces for you to play. There are thousands of pieces, and it is your job to find the piece that you WANT (not have) to play. A great way to research is go to youtube, type in a state's name, solo and ensemble, and the instrument. Ex: Texas solo and ensemble Marimba. This will give you an idea of what other students, your age are working on.

If you are interested in playing a Timpani or Multi-Percussion piece see me and we can discuss some good pieces for you. There are also many good vibraphone solos not listed here. If this is something you are interested in, please let me know.

We spend enough time with rudimental playing throughout the year. No rudimental solos unless it is a style you typically do not play. Then we can talk.

Dates

These dates are absolutely mandatory unless you are hospital sick or there has been a family tragedy. There are plenty of other dates to familiarize yourself with. Go to www.thunderband.com and click calendar to see all dates. Do NOT rely on me to remind you of dates! Each year, I verbally remind students, and put dates on the board. However, students still manage to forget and I am forced to give them a "0". By signing the following form, you are stating that you have read and agree to ALL things on this disclosure. So you are telling me that you are aware of ALL important dates and there will be no conflicts.

9/5- Chair Placement Auditions (Materials TBA)
TBA- Concert Black Uniform Fitting (Applies only if you are in new ensemble)
9/22- Last day to verify items purchased for class 10/9- Last day to pick solo or chamber piece for Solo & Ensemble
11/10- All State audition deadline
11/14- After school sectionals begin (Advanced)
11/16- After school sectional begin (Intermediate)
11/30-12/2- Alpine Honor Band
12/13- Holiday Band Concert
12/19- Performing Arts Holiday Assembly
1/18-1/20- All State Band and Orchestra
2/8- Concerto Night with Orchestra
2/21- School Solo & Ensemble
3/2 or 3/3- MFA Band Festival (Will announce time and date ASAP)
3/13- Region Solo & Ensemble
3/17- Utah Day of Percussion
3/28- Region Band Festival
4/19-Spring Band Concert
4/28- State Solo & Ensemble
5/4 or 5/5- State Concert Band Festival (Will announce time and date ASAP)
5/16- After school dress rehearsal for Percussion Concert
5/17- Percussion Spring Concert
5/31- Graduation (Advanced)

If interested in auditioning for All-State you may submit a digital audition online between 8/1-11/11. For more info go to www.umea.us and follow the links.

Grading

10%- Writing Assignments
30%- Participation
30%- Pass Offs
30%- School Solo and Ensemble
Chamber Rehearsal Attendance

A student will receive an "Incomplete" for the term if a performance is missed for any reason other than those listed above.

Please sign and return by the 5th class meeting in order to receive 50 points.

I have read and understand the disclosure document for Advanced Percussion. I am aware of the items needed for this class, will purchase these items, and show Mr. Megginson proof of purchase. I am familiar with all important dates and will make arrangements now to insure that there are no conflicts. I understand that missing too many rehearsals may result in my part being reassigned for the remainder of the year, and that failure to be at all performances will result in an "Incomplete" for the term of the performance.

Student name (print) Date

Parent name (print) Date

Student Signature Date

Parent Signature Date