

B5 Concert Percussion  
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In office on B Days, and A1-A2

### **A. Course Description**

Our Concert Percussion class serves as a space to allow all students beginning at Westlake to better develop a sense of time, rhythm, rudiments, scales, and other skills that will be crucial in our Intermediate or Advanced classes. This course focuses on the development of correct technique for 4-mallet playing, 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.

### **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.

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](http://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 performances are required in order to pass the class with only a few unique circumstances allowed for absences. The group performs in "**Sunday Best**" when playing with the Concert Band, and **all black** when having a percussion only performance. All black means black long sleeved button down, black undershirt if you choose to wear one, black socks, black dress slacks, black shoes for boys. Girls are welcome to wear the same, or a black floor length dress. Essentially, no color other than black may show.

### 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 when the students are set up and ready to play.
- This grade is also partly based on putting things away **CORRECTLY**
- 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 thing 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](http://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. Winter and Spring Remediation Time**

Starting on 1/10 concert percussion will have remediation time every wednesday afternoon from 3:00-4:30. This time is for students that need help with a concept or instrument to receive that help from me. During class time, I have to go with the pace of the class, and do not always have time to tend to the musical needs to each student. This time is not required. Students are encouraged to come based on their own needs. However, if I see a problem that needs to be fixed, and you are not taking the initiative to correct it, I may assign you a week to come.

### **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 that you are working on 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. Certain pages and tempos will be assigned for various levels. Many of these things we will work on in class, but some you will be told what needs to be worked on, and it will be up to you to work on the material outside of class time.

### **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 costs. 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 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 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 Sammut- 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

Askell Masson- Prim

Askell Masson- Kim

Nicolas Martynciow- 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

Any performance is 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](http://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  
1/10- Remediation Time (Concert)  
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](http://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 Concert 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 missed performance.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student name (print)                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent name (print)                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature                      Date