



2026 Audition Guide

High School Percussion

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I. Audition Timeline

Early Audition Deadline: May 21, 2025

Regular Audition Deadline: September 10, 2025

After the regular audition deadline, auditions will be accepted on a rolling basis until **December 31, 2025** for the HPS New York program, and **April 22, 2026** for our London HPS program. Please note that rolling auditions will only be considered based on remaining ensemble needs.

Application Requirements:

1. Complete Online Enrollment
2. Provide a Teacher Reference
3. Complete the Performing Biography Form
4. Submit Your Audio Recording(s)

For more information regarding these application requirements, please visit the Application Details page on our website for the program for which you are applying.

II. Scholarship Information

Partial scholarships are available to ensure that performers of all economic backgrounds may participate in this unique performance honor.

Partial tuition assistance is available to qualified students each year based upon financial need, scholastic merit, and leadership achievement. We also take all scholarship applicants into account for our diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) scholarship.

Submission of a scholarship application is required to be considered for an award; however, you will only need to submit one application to be considered for all scholarships for which you are eligible. The scholarship application will be made available following program acceptances.

The scholarship application link can be found on our website under the “Scholarships” tab, or by following the link: honorsperformance.org/scholarships.

III. Recording Submission Guidelines

Please review the following requirements before completing and submitting your recording.

- Recordings may not be engineered, edited, or enhanced in any manner.
- To qualify for the program, you must play all music in the Audition Repertoire section of this guide.
- Begin each piece by saying your full name and the instrument or voice part for which you are auditioning.
- Recordings should be audio only (no videos) and should be in MP3 or M4A format only. *Please note: We will do our best to notify students if we encounter a problem with an audition recording, but we cannot guarantee the Selection Board will be able to review your submission if it is not submitted in the required format.*
- When naming the file, please include your first and last name, as well as the instrument or voice part for which you are auditioning (i.e.: *Pedro Pascal-Viola Audition.mp3*).
- You may audition on more than one instrument and you may audition as both an instrumentalist and a vocalist. In both cases, you should complete Online Enrollment once, submitting only one teacher reference and one performing biography. You'll need to submit a separate recording for each instrument/voice part on which you wish to apply.

Please note: The audition upload form can be submitted only once per applicant. If you are applying on more than one part, please submit the form only when you are ready to upload your audition recordings for all parts.

IV. Recording Tips and Suggestions

- Recording your audio on a phone or tablet is fine. A professional microphone is not necessary.
- Place the recording device on a flat surface with the microphone unobstructed.
- Check sound levels after you record to ensure sound is not distorted in loud passages and inaudible in soft passages.
- Listen to your final recording *in its entirety* to ensure that there is no extra sound, distortion, or noises before, during, or after your performance.

V. Judging Criteria


1. **Tone Quality** (resonance, control, clarity, focus, consistency, warmth)
2. **Intonation** (accuracy to printed pitches)
3. **Rhythm** (accuracy of note/rest values, duration, pulse, steadiness, meter adherence)
4. **Technique** (artistry, attacks and releases, control of ranges, musical/mechanical skill)
5. **Interpretation/Musicianship** (style, phrasing, tempo, dynamics, emotional involvement)
6. **Diction/Bowing/Articulation**

VI. How to Upload Your Recording(s)

- 1 Login to your my.honorsperformance.org online portal.
- 2 On the top banner, click on **Enrollment Forms and Info**.
- 3 Scroll down the page to the golden “Audition” banner and click on **Submit Your Audition Recording(s)**.
- 4 On the *Audition Recording Upload Form*, read the submission guidelines, and fill out the information on this first page before clicking **Submit Audition Recording(s)**.
- 5 Choose the voice part or instrument for which you are submitting your audition, and upload your audio recording through the **First Part Recording 1** box. Please ensure that your audition audio is labeled correctly (see **III. Recording Submission Guidelines** in this document for clarification).
- 6 If you are uploading extra recordings, feel free to use the remaining two upload boxes to submit these recordings.
- 7 If you wish to submit an audition on a second or third part or instrument, follow the instructions in the form for these extra submissions.
- 8 Otherwise, decline these questions and click **Submit Audition Recording(s)**.

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AUDITION

-  Teacher Reference
-  Performing Biography
-  **Submit Your Audition Recording(s)**

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Audition Recording Upload Form

IMPORTANT: Before you record your audition materials, please review the application instructions on our website to ensure all requirements are met.

When you are ready to submit your audition recording(s), please upload your MP3 or M4A audio files using the tool below. Please note the following submission guidelines:

- You may upload up to three files for **each part** on which you are applying.
- You may apply on up to three parts: one voice part and two instruments, or three instruments if not submitting a voice audition.
- The part(s) you indicate below will be the **only parts evaluated by our Selection Board**. Please upload one or more recordings for all parts for which you wish to be considered.
- The maximum submission size for all recordings combined of 25MB.
- Please upload all your recordings in one submission. This form will not accept additional recordings once it has been submitted.

Applicant Name*

First Name Last Name

Will you be submitting a choral application?*

Yes No

Submit Audition Recording(s)

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Voice Part*

Voice - Soprano Voice - Alto Voice - Tenor Voice - Bass

Please note: While singers may only apply on one voice part, you may be assigned an alternative part if selected for the Series. Voice part assignments are made based on the part(s) you indicate you can sing on your Performing Biography and the recommendation of our Selection Board.

First Part Recording 1*

Drag and drop here or [Browse files](#)
Max file size: 10 MB

Please ensure your recording follows the requirements outlined on the application page before submitting.

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I would like to audition on a second part (instruments only - choral applicants may apply for one part only)*

Yes No

Second Part: Instrument Type*

Strings Percussion Other (woodwinds, brass, etc.)

Please note: Choral applicants may only apply for one voice part. All applicants may apply on one or more instruments.

Second Part Recording 1*

Drag and drop here or [Browse files](#)
Max file size: 10 MB

Please ensure your recording follows the requirements outlined on the application page before submitting.

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VII. Audition Repertoire

Please read the instructions on this page and all following pages carefully. For more information regarding your audition recording requirements, please view the *Application Details* page on our website for the program for which you wish to apply.

Percussion Audition Procedure:

This Audition Guide includes a chromatic scale and three sets of performance excerpts. **You must play the chromatic scale and mallet excerpts**, however you may choose to play either the snare drum or timpani excerpts as your second instrument. You may play all three sets of excerpts if you wish, but it is only required to audition on two of the three instruments.

Step One: Mallet Audition

Performance Notes: Please play the chromatic scale and mallet audition excerpts in one take without cutting. You may play your chromatic scale in any tempo and pattern that best fits your skill level.

The image shows two staves of musical notation for a chromatic scale. The first staff starts on a treble clef with a common time signature (C). The notes are: C4, C#4, D4, D#4, E4, E#4, F4, F#4, G4, G#4, A4, A#4, B4, B#4, C5. The second staff continues the scale from B#4 down to C4, with notes: B#4, B4, A#4, A4, G#4, G4, F#4, F4, E#4, E4, D#4, D4, C#4, C4. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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Mallet Audition Excerpts

Piece: *English Folk Song Suite* by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Mallet Audition Excerpt #1

Performance Notes: Quarter Note = 112-120 BPM; this excerpt is required. Please play the chromatic scale and mallet audition excerpts in one take without cutting.

Musical score for Mallet Audition Excerpt #1. The score is in treble clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a 2/4 time signature. It begins with the tempo marking "Allegro." and a dynamic marking of "pp". The first line of music is partially obscured by a black redaction box. The second line of music is also partially obscured by a black redaction box. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings like "mf" and "p".

Mallet Audition Excerpt #2

Performance Notes: Dotted Quarter Note = 112-120 BPM; this excerpt is required. Please play the chromatic scale and mallet audition excerpts in one take without cutting.

Musical score for Mallet Audition Excerpt #2. The score is in treble clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a 2/4 time signature. It begins with a dynamic marking of "ff marcato." The first line of music is partially obscured by a black redaction box. The second line of music is also partially obscured by a black redaction box. The third line of music is also partially obscured by a black redaction box. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings like "ff marcato."

Please See Next Page

Step Two: Snare Drum Excerpt OR Timpani Excerpt

Snare Drum Audition Excerpts

Piece: *English Folk Song Suite* by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Snare Drum Audition Excerpt #1

Performance Notes: Quarter Note = 112-120 BPM; play EITHER the snare drum excerpts or the timpani excerpts. You may play both the snare drum and timpani excerpts if you wish, but it is not required. Please play both snare drum excerpts in one take.

Allegro.

S.D. *p*

pp B.D. & Cym. *f*

This musical score is for Snare Drum Audition Excerpt #1. It consists of three staves of music in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a bass clef and a tempo marking of 'Allegro.'. A large black redaction bar covers the first few measures. A red bracket highlights a snare drum (S.D.) excerpt starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The second staff continues the music with a timpani (B.D. & Cym.) part marked *pp* and a snare drum part marked *f*. The third staff concludes the excerpt with another redaction bar at the end, also marked with a red bracket.

Snare Drum Audition Excerpt #2

Performance Notes: Dotted Quarter Note = 112-120 BPM; play EITHER the snare drum excerpts or the timpani excerpts. You may play both the snare drum and timpani excerpts if you wish, but it is not required. Please play both snare drum excerpts in one take.

ff S.D. *f* B.D. & Cym.

This musical score is for Snare Drum Audition Excerpt #2. It consists of three staves of music in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a bass clef. A large black redaction bar covers the first few measures. A red bracket highlights a snare drum (S.D.) excerpt starting with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. The second staff continues the music with a timpani (B.D. & Cym.) part marked *f*. The third staff concludes the excerpt with another redaction bar at the end, also marked with a red bracket.

Timpani Audition Excerpts

Piece: *March Timpani* by Thomas Wiggins

Timpani Audition Excerpt #1

Performance Notes: Quarter Note = 90-96 BPM; play EITHER the snare drum excerpts or the timpani excerpts. You may play both the snare drum and timpani excerpts if you wish, but it is not required. Please play both timpani excerpts in one take.

Musical score for Timpani Audition Excerpt #1. The score consists of three staves. The first staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 2/4 time signature. It begins with a red bracket on the left and ends with a red bracket on the right. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. Dynamics include *ff*. The second staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. It begins with a red bracket on the left and ends with a red bracket on the right. The notes are: G3, A3, B3, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3. Dynamics include *dim.*, *p*, *ff*, and *cresc.*. The third staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. It begins with a red bracket on the left and ends with a red bracket on the right. The notes are: G3, A3, B3, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3. Dynamics include *p* and *p dim.*. There are black redaction bars at the beginning and end of the first staff, and at the end of the third staff.

Timpani Audition Excerpt #2

Performance Notes: Quarter Note = 112-120 BPM; play EITHER the snare drum excerpts or the timpani excerpts. You may play both the snare drum and timpani excerpts if you wish, but it is not required. Please play both timpani excerpts in one take.

Musical score for Timpani Audition Excerpt #2. The score consists of two staves. The first staff is in bass clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 2/4 time signature. It begins with a red bracket on the left and ends with a red bracket on the right. The notes are: G3, A3, B3, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3. Dynamics include *cresc.*, *ff*, and *dim.*. The second staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. It begins with a red bracket on the left and ends with a red bracket on the right. The notes are: G3, A3, B3, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3. Dynamics include *cresc.*.