



A Content Analysis of Select Universities' Undergraduate Percussion Audition Repertoire Requirements

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this study was to research the admission audition requirements of undergraduate percussion studios and provide a frequency count of the most requested repertoire, instruments, and composers.

METHOD

Undergraduate audition repertoire requirements and suggestions of N=46 universities and conservatories in the United States were gathered online via each institution's website. Institutions were selected based on two criteria: 1) Having won the Percussive Arts Society Call for Tapes to give a performance at the annual Percussive Arts Society International Convention 2) Offering Doctorate of Musical Arts program.

An extensive database was created that included the audition suggestions for instruments, repertoire, and composers. Instrument categories and sub-categories were created to document specific repertoire requirements. Categories were then analyzed and a frequency count was documented in order to identify the top referenced repertoire and composers for each instrument in undergraduate percussion auditions.

The top three most referenced composers and top three most referenced pieces were then listed as a percentage of the total number of schools included in the research.

	Mallet Keyboard		Snare Drum		Timpani	
	Two Mallets	Four Mallets	Concert Style	Rudimental Style		
Composer	1	Bach: 26% (tie)	Abe: 20% (tie)	Cirone: 63%	Pratt: 37%	Goodman: 43%
	2	Green: 26% (tie)	Stout: 20% (tie)	Peters: 35%	Wilcoxon: 33%	Firth: 41%
	3	Goldenberg: 20%	Smadbeck: 17%	Delécluse: 30%	Markovich: 13%	Hochrainer: 24%
Repertoire	1	<i>Sonatas and Partitas for Violin</i> (Bach) 17%	<i>Yellow After the Rain</i> (Peters) 11% (tie)	<i>Portraits in Rhythm</i> (Cirone) 43%	<i>14 Modern Contest Solos</i> (Pratt) 13%	<i>Modern Method For Tympani</i> (Goodman) 26%
	2	<i>A ragtime</i> (Green) 13%	<i>Mexican Dances</i> (Stout) 11% (tie)	<i>Douze Études</i> (Delécluse) 22%	<i>The All American Drummer</i> (Wilcoxon) 11%	<i>The Solo Timpanist</i> (Firth) 17%
	3	<i>Modern School for Xylophone</i> (Goldenberg) 11%	<i>Rhythm Song</i> (Smadbeck) 9%	<i>Advanced Studies</i> (Peters) 11%	<i>Modern Rudimental Swing Solos</i> (Wilcoxon) 7%	<i>Exercises, Etudes, and Solos for Timpani</i> (Carroll) 9%

RESULTS

- The most frequently referenced composer in each category was as follows:
 - Two Mallets- Bach/G.H. Green
 - Four Mallet- Abe/Stout
 - Concert Snare- Cirone
 - Rudimental Snare- Pratt
 - Timpani- Goodman
- The most frequently referenced piece in each category was as follows:
 - Two Mallets- Sonatas and Partitas for Violin by Bach
 - Four Mallets- Yellow After the Rain by Peters
 - Concert Snare- Portraits in Rhythm by Cirone
 - Rudimental Snare- 14 Modern Contest Solos by Pratt
 - Timpani- Modern Method for Tympani by Goodman

DISCUSSION

Further results of this study provide high school students with a resource for selecting percussion audition repertoire for entrance into a collegiate school of music. Additionally, college music professors are provided additional reference to the audition requirements of other schools.

