

# Colorado All-State Band

## RECOMMENDED STEP-BY-STEP RECORDING PROCESS

### PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS

We HIGHLY recommend everyone follow these simple step-by-step instructions so your final product will best represent your playing and give the adjudicators the information they need to evaluate your audition.

#### BEFORE YOU RECORD

- ◇ Choose a good recording location, free of extra noise, but adds a little resonance to your sound. DO NOT use artificial effects like reverb.
- ◇ Set up your camera so your technique can be seen (hands/grip are clearly seen in the video)
- ◇ Do a test recording to make sure your sound is good (not peaking or too soft) and it truly represents what you sound like – Remember TONE is very important in your recording
- ◇ If you can PRE-SET your video format, we highly recommend 720p video. There is no need to do 4K ultra hi-def. Sound is most important, and large videos will take a long time to upload.
- ◇ Make sure you CAN ACTUALLY PARTICIPATE. Do not submit a recording if you are not able to be at EVERY REHEARSAL and the FINAL PERFORMANCE. Check the dates on the All-State Web-Site

#### NOTES

- ◇ You CAN splice elements together (your COMPLETE major scale can be spliced with your COMPLETE minor scale). You do NOT have to record your entire audition in one take from start to end.
- ◇ You CANNOT splice various takes of an individual element together (you must record the ENTIRE mallet etude at once – you cannot splice the first 8 measures of one recording with the next 16 measures of another recording)
- ◇ You CAN record things in any order you want – but they must be assembled into the following order to submit: Announcement, Major Scale, Minor Scale, Chromatic Scale, Mallet Prepared Excerpt, Snare Drum Prepared Excerpt, Timpani Tuning, Timpani Prepared Excerpt.
- ◇ You CAN have multiple recording sessions (you CAN record your scales at one time and the first prepared excerpt on a different day)

THE ELEMENTS (remember, you can record these in ANY ORDER, as long as you assemble them in the proper order)

- ◇ Your ANNOUNCEMENT – This is you speaking into the camera, saying your name, your school, your grade and your instrument (percussion)
- ◇ Your MAJOR AND MINOR SCALES – Major and minor scales should be recorded in the proper rhythm (outlined on the audition information). They should be two octaves and should not have arpeggios. The tempo is our recommended tempo, but you can record them faster or slower.
- ◇ Your CHROMATIC SCALE – the Chromatic scale should be two octaves, starting on C (outlined on the audition information).
- ◇ Your PREPARED PIECES – For the prepared pieces, you SHOULD NOT have a metronome running. You are welcome to check your tempo with a metronome before you start playing, but it cannot be playing while you are recording. Each excerpt has a RECOMMENDED tempo. You are encouraged to play as close to that tempo as you can.
- ◇ TIMPANI NOTES: You need to record the tuning of the drums IN THE SAME RECORDING AS YOUR PREPARED PIECE (no splicing the tuning with the performance of the prepared excerpt). Tuning: Have all the drums pre-set to their lowest pitch. Using any method you are comfortable with (pitch pipe, tuning fork, keyboard, mallet instrument) get the pitch of one of the drums and tune that drum. The other drums should be tuned without any reference pitch (tuned by interval). You will be assessed not only on the accuracy of your tuning, but on the speed you can accurately tune. Immediately after you have tuned the drums, move on to performing the Prepared Excerpt. If you are unhappy with your recording, you may re-record, but it must include RE-RECORDING THE TUNING).

## PUT IT TOGETHER

- ◇ When you have everything recorded, you need to assemble the various recordings into a SINGLE video that you will submit (you CANNOT submit 7 separate recordings)
- ◇ Your final video must be in the proper order:
  - ANNOUNCEMENT
  - MALLETS: MAJOR SCALE
  - MALLETS: MINOR SCALE
  - MALLETS: CHROMATIC SCALE
  - MALLETS: PREPARED PIECE
  - SNARE DRUM: PREPARED PIECE
  - TIMPANI AUDITION (Tuning and Prepared excerpt)
- ◇ Your final video should NOT have a lot of extra “wasted” time. Delete the dead time before and after your playing
- ◇ The final recording should be in a STANDARD DEFINITION format, that isn’t huge (our recommendation is 720P) and must be in the .mp4 format. There are many free video converters that will allow you to get them into those size/format requirements.
- ◇ You SHOULD take the time to watch the entire video as the adjudicator would. Make sure every element is present and they are in the right order. OUR RECOMMENDATION is you schedule a time with your band director to watch the video and get their comments. You WILL NOT receive any comments from the judge, so this is your opportunity to learn from the audition process.
- ◇ You DO NOT have to follow any “naming conventions” when naming the final video. It will be uploaded to our audition platform and the judge will never see how it is named – so as long as your band director can figure out it’s yours and it’s an All-State audition, you’ll be fine. Our RECOMMENDATION is your name\_all-state band. We have had occurrences where a band director has uploaded an honor band audition instead of an All-State audition – make it easy for them!

## FINAL STEPS

- ◇ Double check all the required dates for the event – you MUST attend every rehearsal and the performance (no excused absences allowed). Do not submit an audition if you cannot commit to every date.
- ◇ Once you have reviewed your audition recording – go to the All-State Band Website (<https://www.coloradoallstateband.com/>) and go to the Auditions page where you will find a link to the audition platform (available beginning November 1) where you must complete your audition registration. This cannot be completed until AFTER your band director has registered. You will not find your director listed or your school until they complete their part. If you cannot find your school, talk with your director so they know you are waiting for them to complete their part, then COME BACK after they are done so you can do your part.
- ◇ Talk with your director about how they prefer to pay for your audition. If they want you to pay for it, Students and directors can find the payment link in the upper right corner of the CBA Website (<https://www.coloradobandmasters.org/>) beginning November 1. If they want you to pay the school, or if the school is covering the fee, follow their instructions on how to get this done.
- ◇ Your DIRECTOR is the only one that can upload your recording. Be sure to get your director your audition video to be uploaded.
- ◇ Auditions cannot be uploaded until you have completed your student registration AND the audition fee has been paid.
- ◇ Results are posted on the All-State Band Website typically around the last week of December.