



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

**School of Music**

*College of Visual and Performing Arts*

# NIU Percussion Audition Requirements

Please review and prepare all requirements thoroughly. Auditions are held in person at NIU in February, unless otherwise determined. Please register for an audition date on our website or at [go.niu.edu/musicaudition](https://go.niu.edu/musicaudition).

If you are unable to attend NIU's official audition days, contact the Music Admissions Coordinator ([avmenk@niu.edu](mailto:avmenk@niu.edu)) for permission to schedule an independent audition or obtain approval to submit an unedited video audition. Please bring copies of your music for the adjudication panel.

## All auditionees:

- Aural skills
  - pitch matching with voice
  - basic singing of melody
- Sight reading
  - two-mallet etude
  - snare drum etude
- Interview
  - We'll ask you questions about your application essays and/or CV
  - Please prepare questions to ask us about the program

#### Undergraduates:

- One solo performance in each of the following areas
  - snare drum
  - two-mallet or four-mallet (preferred) keyboard percussion
  - timpani
- Solo/étude in **one** other area of applicant's choice:
  - multiple percussion
  - world percussion
  - drum set demonstration of styles to be selected from the following list:
    - Medium Jazz - **John Scofield, "Don't Shoot the Messenger"**
    - Afro-Brazilian Styles - **Djavan, "Flor de Lis"**
    - Afro-Cuban Styles - **Celia Cruz and Willie Colon, "Son Matamoros"**
    - Popular Styles - **Stevie Wonder, "As"**

*Music Minor applicants must perform solo études/works from a minimum of two of any of the six areas mentioned: snare drum, mallets, timpani, multiple percussion, world percussion, or drum set.*

#### Graduates:

- One senior recital-level solo work in each of the following areas
  - snare drum
  - four-mallet keyboard percussion
  - timpani
- Solo/étude in **one** other area of applicant's choice:
  - multiple percussion
  - world percussion
  - drum set demonstration of styles to be selected from the following list:
    - Medium Jazz - **John Scofield, "Don't Shoot the Messenger"**
    - Afro-Brazilian Styles - **Djavan, "Flor de Lis"**
    - Afro-Cuban Styles - **Celia Cruz and Willie Colon, "Son Matamoros"**
    - Popular Styles - **Stevie Wonder, "As"**

Questions? Contact Dr. Greg Beyer ([gbeyer@niu.edu](mailto:gbeyer@niu.edu)).

## Undergraduate Percussion Repertoire Suggestions

Instrument	Composer/Author	Piece/Book
Rudimental Snare Drum	John S. Pratt	14 Modern Contest Solos
	Charley Wilcoxon	The All-American Drummer 150 Rudimental Solos
Concert Snare Drum	Anthony Cirone	Portraits in Rhythm
	Jacques Delécluse	Douze Études pour Caisse-claire
Two-Mallet Keyboard	Morris Goldenberg	Modern School for Xylophone, Marimba, Vibraphone
	G.H. Green	George Hamilton Green's Xylophone Rags
	J.S. Bach	Any selected movement from solo Violin Sonatas & Partitas or Cello Suites
Four-Mallet Keyboard	Nancy Zeltsman	Four-Mallet Marimba Playing, Section 4, "18 Intermediate-to-Advanced Adapted Solos
	Mark Ford	Marimba: Technique through Music
	Bart Quartier	Image, 20 Children's Songs for Marimba
Timpani	Raynor Carroll	Exercises, Études and Solos for the Timpani
	Saul Goodman	Modern Method for Timpani
	Jacques Delécluse	Trente Études pour Timbales
	Elliott Carter	Eight Solos for Four Timpani
World Music	Michael Spiro	Language of the Masters

## Additional Graduate Percussion Repertoire Suggestions

Instrument	Composer/Author	Piece/Book
Multi-Percussion	Michio Kitazume	Side by Side
	Eckhard Kopetzki	Canned Heat
	Alexis Lamb	Familiar
	Alexis Lamb	Thai
	David Lang	Unchained Melody
	David Lang	Anvil Chorus
	Kevin Volans	She Who Sleeps with a Small Blanket
	Kevin Volans	Asanga
	Ben Wahlund	Murakami's Empty Chair
	Ben Wahlund	1800 and Counting
	Ianis Xenakis	Rebonds b
	Ianis Xenakis	Rebonds a
	Ianis Xenakis	Psappa