



University of Cincinnati Bearcat Bands Marching
Band Cymbal Packet and Audition Information
2026 Edition





Greetings!

Welcome to all new and returning students in the Percussion Section of the UC Bearcat Bands program! We are gearing up for a fantastic 2026 season, with many great and unique performance opportunities on the horizon. As you dive into the audition process, this packet is to be used as a guide for preparation and as a tool to set the percussion section up as the heartbeat of the Bearcat Bands Program!

Enclosed, you will find all the necessary materials to prepare for your audition. These materials should be prepared to the best of your ability (memorized) prior to the video audition deadline. In this packet, you will also find important summer dates for the Bearcat Bands program, and information for the audition process.

Practice hard, have fun, and enjoy your preparation for a fantastic experience with UC Percussion!

Should you have any questions, please feel free to email me at beltraas@ucmail.uc.edu

Thank you again for choosing the University of Cincinnati and the UC Bearcat Bands...see you soon!

Sincerely,

Alex Beltran
Associate Director, UC Bearcat Bands
beltraas@ucmail.uc.edu
203.273.2770



UC Bearcat Bands 2026 Percussion Packet Materials

1. **Single Double Triple (Full Battery and Front Ensemble):** This exercise focuses on our timing and our single and multiple strokes. It is meant to be played at various tempos, and as the tempo increases the dynamic level will decrease for all players. For the front ensemble, all players should perform this exercise on their instrument with rhythmic and pitch accuracy, and be able to play the exercise in each of the 12 Major Keys
2. **4-3-2-1 (Full Battery and Front Ensemble):** This exercise is for all sections to focus on consistent stroke types and rhythmic clarity. Keyboard players will perform this exercise on one note "C", and on the written pitches, as well as other harmonic minor scales
3. **Yak-Scents (Front Ensemble):** This 2 Mallet Exercises works stickings, accents, and note groupings. Please prepare the entire exercise on "one note" (with the written rhythms, sticking, and accent patterns), and on the written pitches.
4. **Yak-Scents (Snares, Tenors, Bases):** This exercises works syncopation within a 16th note accent phrase. Please mark time throughout the exercise and demonstrate rhythmic accuracy and consistency throughout each variation.
5. **Duple Check Patterns (Full Battery and Front Ensemble):** these check patterns are the rhythmic foundation of our playing style. Demonstrate the proper stickings and consistent stroke types throughout
6. **Triplet Rolls (Battery Only):** This exercise will be played at various dynamics and with both right and left hand lead.
7. **Bearcat Jam 4 Mallet (FE Only):** This exercise showcases 4 mallet skills with both double vertical and independent strokes.
8. **PAW (Battery Only):** THE cadence!
9. **Pregame:** Down the Steps/Chuckems (no Front Ensemble), Red and Black, Cheer Cinci, Down the Drive (No Front Ensemble), and Give a Cheer. Please prepare all pregame Materials included in the packet prior to the July Percussion Camp.



University of Cincinnati Bearcat Bands Percussion Auditions and Dates:

All new incoming students AND returning members who are auditioning on a different instrument than you performed on during the 2025 season are required to submit an audition video.

This video should be recorded, uploaded as a single unlisted YouTube Video, and emailed to Mr. Beltran at beltraas@ucmail.uc.edu

Audition Videos are due by Monday 6/22/2026

All videos should be submitted ON THE INSTRUMENT you are auditioning for, with an audible metronome. For battery candidates, we must be able to see you mark time for all videos.

Bass Drum Candidates: Please identify the specific drum you are auditioning on, and demonstrate those specific parts for "PAW"

Cymbal Candidates: Please submit the "Check Patterns" on a drum pad with sticks with an audible met and marking time. All other exercises should be submitted on cymbals.

For Front Ensemble Candidates, please follow the guidelines for "mallet players", "synth players" and "Rhythm Section."

Tuesday July 7th-Thursday July 9th- UC Percussion Summer Camp

All new and returning Bearcat Bands percussionists who are able must attend the Summer Percussion Camp on the UC campus. During this camp we will be continuing the audition process and getting a jump on the performance material for 2026.

If you are unable to attend the percussion camp due to a conflict, please email Mr. Beltran at beltraas@ucmail.uc.edu.



UC Battery (Snare, Tenor, Bass, Cymbals) Video Audition Requirements:

1. **Single-Double-Triple:** 2 Reps at 132 BPM while marking time.
2. **4-3-2-1:** One Trip at 116 BPM while marking time.
3. **Yak-Scents:** One rep of all 4 variations at 100 BPM while marking time (**no cymbals**).
4. **Duple Check Patterns:** One rep of the Check, patterns 1-4, and 11-14 at 84 BPM while marking time.
5. **PAW:** One rep at 116 BPM while marking time.
6. **Solo:** 20-30 second solo of your choice that showcases your skills and musicality.

Mallet Players Video Audition Requirements:

1. **Single-Double-Triple:** 2 Reps at 116 BPM (One in C Major, one in Bb Major).
2. **4-3-2-1:** Two reps at 116 BPM (one all on C, one on the written pitches).
3. **Yak-Scents:** One rep of the entire exercise on one note "C" with all appropriate rhythms, accents, and stickings. One rep of the entire exercise "on the notes" at 92 BPM.
4. **Duple Check Patterns:** One rep of the Check, patterns 1-4, and 11-14 at 84 BPM while tapping your foot. **You can submit on a drum pad with an audible met, or one one note on a keyboard instrument**
5. **Bearcat Jam 4 Mallet:** One rep of the Bearcat Jam in the key of C major using the 4 mallet grip of your choice at 120 BPM .
6. **Solo:** 20-30 second solo of your choice that showcases your skills and musicality.

Rhythm Section (Guitar, Bass, Drum Set, Synth) Video Audition Requirements:

1. **Single-Double-Triple:** 2 Reps at 116 BPM (One in C Major, one in Bb Major) on a piano or keyboard instrument. Drum Set Players should play the "Snare drum" part on a pad or on a drum
2. **Duple Check Patterns:** One rep of the Check, patterns 1-4, and 11-14 at 84 BPM while tapping your foot. **This can be submitted on a drum pad with an audible met, or on "C" on your instrument**
3. **Bearcat Jam:** One rep of the Bearcat Jam in the key of C major using the "I-vi-IV-ii-V-I" progression. Feel free to improvise on the chord progression if you are inclined. Drum Set players, please play the written material.
4. **Yak-Scents:** Bass/Guitar please play the "timpani" part, Drum Set play the "rack" and synth play the "synth"
5. **Pregame:** Performances of "Red and Black," "Cheer Cincinnati," and "Give a Cheer" on the appropriate instruments. Guitar and Bass players, please perform the specific part for your instrument. Drum Set players should play the "snare" part for each of these excerpts, and synth players should play the mallet part



UC Percussion Technique Overview:

While the technique will be explained in detail over the course of the summer camps, here are a few points to help guide your practice:

1. Utilize the Proper Grip for your Instrument:
 - Snare Drummers will use Traditional Grip, and tenors and bass drums will use Matched Grip facilitated by the natural curve of the hands.
 - Front Ensemble will use the Stevens Grip for 4 mallet technique- please see Method of Movement by Leigh Howard Stevens for a thorough explanation of the Stevens Grip.
2. Arms, Wrist, and Finger:
 - We utilize all three of these muscle groups in different proportions to perform our exercises and music.
3. The Music Dictates Technique:
 - Different styles of music and technical passages will require varied approaches to the instruments. Flexibility of touch and approach will allow for a huge range of musical and technical expression
4. Rhythmic Integrity:
 - Individual Rhythmic understanding, and the ability to demonstrate correct rhythms in time, is key to our ability to play together as an ensemble.
5. Stroke Types:
 - Stroke Types are key for homogenous interpretation of the music in performance- the ability to demonstrate consistent full, down, tap, and upstrokes within musical passages is vital to uniform musical and visual performance.
6. Dynamics and Levels:
 - We use a “levels” system to dynamics on the percussion instruments at UC. This level system will be explained in detail over summer camps and throughout the season.
7. Have Fun!!!
 - Raw performance energy and emotion is key to our success as a percussion section, and is only achieved through strong preparation! The better prepared you are with the material, the more fun you can have communicating your performance with each other and with the audience!!!!



UC Percussion Responsibilities and Procedures:

These responsibilities and procedures are key to our identity as one of the top collegiate marching percussion ensembles in the country. Each member is responsible for the following:

1. All music must be updated and kept in a folder or binder (with sheet protectors). Tablets are allowed for rehearsal purposes
2. ALL Instruments, Implements, hardware, and percussion accessories are to be stored in the proper locations at the conclusion of each rehearsal and cared for outside of rehearsal. This includes taping of sticks, regular inventory of sticks/mallets, and re-stringing mallet instruments when necessary.
3. Maintenance of Equipment:
 - a. Wipe Down and Clean all equipment
 - b. Keep lockers orderly, closed, and LOCKED
 - c. Tighten down screws and bolts on all hardware
 - d. Always put hardware back in the proper locations
 - e. Carefully transport equipment and report any damage directly to Mr. B
 - f. Take proper care and initiative to make sure all instruments remain IN TUNE and sounding great
4. Be a Great Citizen of the Band
 - a. Are you fulfilling your responsibilities to the band and your peers to the best of your ability?
 - b. Always operate from a place of Empathy and Understanding
 - c. If you have an issue, communicate with the appropriate person to address your concerns- as a general rule, it doesn't help to complain to someone who can't do anything about the situation!
5. The Three Keys: **Preparation/Practice/Performance**
 - a. Check your Teams
 - b. Be on Time
 - c. Be Prepared (See the next page)



UC Percussion Preparation Overview:

As an integral part of the UC Bearcat Bands program, the percussion section's job is to motivate and inspire the rest of the band through performance and leadership. In order to perform at the highest level, it is vital that all UC Percussion Section Members be on the same page with preparation and expectations.

All Performance Material for the Bearcat Marching Band Percussion section must be memorized to ensure effective rehearsal and performance.

To demonstrate properly memorized music, each member must know by memory and be able to perform:

1. All Rhythms, Stickings, Accents, and pitches (when applicable) within their music
2. All Dynamic information at each section of the music
3. All Rehearsal Marks and relevant phrase information so we can start and stop together in rehearsal
4. The ability to demonstrate a clear pulse by either marching or "marking time" for every musical phrase when applicable

Use these guidelines to inform your practice and preparation!

Best of luck on your audition process as you prepare material and begin your journey with the UC Bearcat Bands Percussion Section! We look forward to seeing your videos and to continuing to build the legacy of the UC Bearcat Bands!

Single-Double-Triple

N. Angelis

Tap-off
♩ = 108-160

A

UC Percussion

2 3 4 5

SnareLine
RRRRRRRRR RRRRRRRRR RRRR... LLL L... RRR R... LLL L... RRRRRR RRRR
ff mp *ff*

TenorLine
RRRR... LLL L... RRR R... LLL L... RRRRRR RRRR

BassLine
RRRR... LLL L... RRR R... LLL L... RRRRRR RRRR

Cymbal Line
[HH] [Sizz/Suc]

Mallet Percussion
To Be Played in all Major Keys
RRRR... LLL L... RRR R... LLL L... RRRRRR RRRR

6 7 8 10

B

Snare
L L L L L L L L L L R R R R R R R R R R L L L L L L L L L L R R R R R R R R R R L L L L L L L L L L

Tenors
L L L L L L L L L L R R R R R R R R R R L L L L L L L L L L R R R R R R R R R R L L L L L L L L L L

BassDr
L L L L L L L L L L R R R R R R R R R R L L L L L L L L L L R R R R R R R R R R L L L L L L L L L L

Cym.L
[HH] [Sizz/Suc] [HH] [Sizz/Suc]

Mar. 1
L L L L L L L L L L R R R R R R R R R R L L L L L L L L L L R L R L... *f*

11 12 13

C

Snare
R R R R R R R R R R L L L L L L L L L L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

Tenors
R R R R R R R R R R L L L L L L L L L L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

BassDr
R R R R R R R R R R L L L L L L L L L L [Crash]

Cym.L
U

Mar. 1
R L R L... *f*

Snare

Tenors

BassDr

Cym.L

Mallets

10

Siz/Suc.

U A U B U A U B

R

R

R

Check Patterns - Duple

Thom Hannum

check

1 r l r l r l etc.

2 / l r l r l etc.

3 r / r l r l etc.

4 r l / l r l etc.

5 r l r / r l etc.

6 r l / / r l etc.

7 / / r l r l etc.

8 r / / l r l etc.

9 / l r / r l etc.

10 / l / l r l etc.

11 r / r / r l etc.

12 / l / / r l etc.

13 / / r / r l etc.

14 / / / l r l etc.

UC Triplet Rolls

♩=120-208

To Be Played ALL UP and with 2 Heights
Both RIGHT and LEFT hand lead!

A

Snare
f mp

Tenor
f mp

Bass
Bass Drums- Splits to be implemented over the course of the season
f mp

S
T
BD

S
T
BD

S
T
BD

A18 [To 1/2 SB] Slaps Clicks [C]

Snare: R LRL LR LRL L RRLRL B B B B B R/LRL RLRL RLLRR LLRRLRLRRL L LLLR LLRRLRLRLRL RLLRR LLRRLRLRLRL
ffl mp fff mf p mf mp mf mfl mp fl mp mfl mp

Tenors: R LLR LL R R RRLRL R(L)(L)RR R L R(L)(L)R RLLRLR L L R(L)(L)R RLRLRR
ffl mp fff mp f mp mp mf mp f mp mf

BassDr: R L R LR *ff mfl mp fl mp mfl mp*

Cym.L: [Crash] [Chokes] [Sizz] U A B U 15 16 17 18 19 20

[B] [Front E. to C.] [C] Stick Slaps

Snare: RLLR LRLRLR LRLRLRL RLLRRRLRLLLRLLLR R L RLLR RLRL RR LRLRLR L R L LRLRRLLLRLLLR L L B B
fl mp ffl mp mp ff ff ffl mp fl mp ff ffl mp ff f B B

Tenors: RLLRRRLRLLLRLLLR R L R R L R LLR L LR RRLRLRLRLRLRLRLRL
mp ff ff mp! ff fl mp ffl mp fl mf

BassDr: *fl mf ff mp ff mp! ff p ff B B*

Cym.L: [Crashes] [Choke] [Crash] [Orchestral] U U U U U 21 22 23 24 25

Long Buzz Press Gawk Shot

Snare: B B R R L R L L R RRLRLRL RLRL RLRL RLRL RLLR L LRLRL LRLRLR LR LR
ffl mp f p ff ffl mp mf fl mf ff

Tenors: LRL RRL R L L R RRLRLRL RLRL R L R L L R L LRLRL LRLRLRL RLRL
ffl mp ffl mp ffl ff ffl mp mp ff

BassDr: B RLRLRLRL RL R R L R L RLLR RLLR R R L R R L R L R L R
mp ff fl mf mf ff ff ff

Cym.L: [Orchestral] [Crashes] [Suc] U 26 27 28 2 1 3 29 f 30

$\text{♩} = 116$

A Crashes

A5 Crashes- Divisi | Crash Unison | Hi Hats | Unison + Rotate Second Time

1 *ff* 2 *mf* 3 *ff* 4 *mf f* 5 *ff mf* 6 7

8 **A18** Sizz 9 10 *f* 11 *f* 12 *mf* 13 *f* 14 *f* 15 Choke

16 **B** Crash 17 18 **Orchestral** 19 20 21 **Orchestral** Crashes 22 *mp* *ff* Suc

23 *f* 24 25 28 29 30 *f*

C Sizz/Suc 31 **D** Crash 32 33 34 Choke Crashes 35 Choke

36 *ff* 37 38 39 40

Cymbal Line
Cymbal Line

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

RED AND BLACK

Music by Alan T. Waterman

Lyrics by Curtis R. Beresford

Published in 1917

Arranged by Dowell Taylor in 1981

Edited by Unknown sometime in the 1990s or 2000s

Edited by Christopher Nichter 2018-2021

Allegro con brio ♩=144

Crashes

ff *mp* *f*

A

f

B

mp *f*

C

4

f *mp* *f*

D

E

ff

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI CHEER CINCINNATI (With Tag)

Uncredited. First appears in 1917 UC Song Book.
Arranged by Randol Alan Bass in 1979
Re-Engraved and Edited by Christopher Nichter 2020-21

Allegro con brio $\text{♩} = 144$

The musical score is written for a cymbal line in 2/4 time. It consists of 77 measures, divided into sections A, B, C, and D. The tempo is marked 'Allegro con brio' with a metronome marking of 144 quarter notes per minute. The score includes various performance instructions such as 'Crashes!', 'Orch. Crashes', 'Sizz', 'HH', 'Choke', 'Push', and 'TAG!'. Dynamics range from *ff* (fortissimo) to *mf* (mezzo-forte). Section A (measures 1-8) features a series of eighth notes with accents. Section B (measures 9-16) continues with eighth notes and includes a 'Choke' instruction at measure 16. Section C (measures 17-31) is characterized by a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with 'Sizz' and 'HH' markings. Section D (measures 32-37) includes 'Orch. Crashes' and a 4-measure rest. The 'TAG!' section (measures 46-52) is marked with a new tempo of 144 and a 4/4 time signature. The final section (measures 53-77) concludes with a *ff* dynamic and a melodic line.

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI
Down the Drive

Full Score

144
Solo SD
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

SnareLine
TenorLine
BassLine
Cymbal Line

ff mp
mp
mf mp
mf mp
mf mp
mf mp
mf mp

All SD-SB Edge
Stick Clicks

9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16

Snare
Tenors
BassDr
Cym.L

ff mp
f mp
ff mp
ff mp
ff mp
ff mp
ff mp

Stick Clicks
Dampen
Crashes

17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

Snare
Tenors
BassDr
Cym.L

mp
mf mp
mf mp
mf mp
mf mp
mf mp
mf mp

1/2 SB
Stick Clicks
Hi Hats

25
26
27
28
29
30

Snare
Tenors
BassDr
Cym.L

ff mp
ff mp
ff mp
ff mp
ff mp
ff mp

Stick Clicks
Crashes
Dampen

31
32
33
34
35
36

Snare
Tenors
BassDr
Cym.L

ff
ff mp
ff mp
ff mp
ff mp
ff mp

Solo SD
All SD
Stick Clicks

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

GIVE A CHEER

Words and Music by Jean Frances Small

Published in 1927

Arranged by Dowell Taylor in Unknown Year

Re-Engraved and Edited by Christopher Nichter 2020-21

"Short Tag Ending" Written by Christopher Nichter 2020

Allegro con brio $\text{♩} = 144$

Crashes

A

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

B

9 10 11 12 13 14 15

OPTIONAL REPEAT;
if not repeating, go to
2nd ending instead

Choke

2.

Sizz/Suc

16 17 18 19 20 21

SHORT TAG ENDING

Crash

Choke

Crash

Choke

22 23 24 25 26 27 28