



University of Cincinnati Bearcat Bands Marching
Band SNARE 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
RRRRRRRR RRRRRRRR 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

B

6 7 8 10

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*

C

11 12 13

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*

This musical score page contains five staves for measures 14 through 17. The staves are labeled as follows:

- Snare:** Features a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes with dynamic markings of *mp*, *ff*, and *mp*.
- Tenors:** Includes rhythmic notation and dynamic markings of *mp*, *ff*, and *mp*.
- BassDr:** Shows a steady rhythmic pattern with dynamic markings of *mp* and *ff*.
- Cym.L:** Contains specific performance instructions: "Crashes" (measures 14, 15, 16), "Choke" (measure 14), and "Solo" (measure 14). It also includes dynamic markings of *mp* and *ff*.
- Mar. 1:** Features a melodic line in treble clef with dynamic markings of *mp* and *ff*.

Measure numbers 14, 15, 16, and 17 are printed below their respective columns. The score includes various musical notations such as accents, slurs, and dynamic markings.

10

Snare

Tenors

BassDr

Cym.L

Mallets

Siz/Suc.

U A U B U A U B

R

R

R

Version 3- Drags

Measures 23-28. Snare, Tenors, and BassDr parts. Rhythmic notation and R/L patterns are provided for each instrument. Dynamics include *ffl mp*.

Measures 29-33. Snare, Tenors, and BassDr parts. Rhythmic notation and R/L patterns are provided for each instrument. Dynamics include *ffl mp*.

Measures 34-38. Snare, Tenors, and BassDr parts. Rhythmic notation and R/L patterns are provided for each instrument.

Version 4- Flam Drags

Measures 39-44. Snare, Tenors, and BassDr parts. Rhythmic notation and R/L patterns are provided for each instrument. Dynamics include *ffl mp*.

Measures 45-48. Snare, Tenors, and BassDr parts. Rhythmic notation and R/L patterns are provided for each instrument. Dynamics include *ffl mp*.

The image shows a musical score for three drum parts: Snare, Tenors, and BassDrums. The score is organized into four measures, numbered 49, 50, 51, and 52. Each measure contains rhythmic notation for the three parts, with stick patterns (R for right, L for left) written below the notes. The Snare part features a consistent pattern of eighth notes with accents. The Tenors part follows a similar pattern but with different accents. The BassDrums part uses a more complex pattern of eighth notes, often with accents. The notation includes stems, beams, and accents to indicate the timing and emphasis of each stroke.

Measure	Snare	Tenors	BassDrums
49	R L R L	R L R L	R L R L R L R L R L R L R L
50	R L R L	R L R L	R L R L R L R L R L R L R L
51	R L R L	R L R L	R L R L R L R L R L R L R L
52	R	R	R

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
4 5 6 7

T

BD

S
8 9 10

T

BD

S
11 12 13

T

BD

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

Snare: *ffl mp* *fff* *mf* *p* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mf* *mp* *f* *mp* *mfl mp*

Tenors: *ffl mp* *fff* *mp* *f* *mp* *mf* *mp* *f* *mp* *mf*

BassDr: *ff* *mfl mp* *f* *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: *f* *mp* *fff* *mp* *ff* *ff* *ffl mp* *f* *mp* *ff* *ffl mp* *ff* *f* *B* *B*

Tenors: *mp* *ff* *ff* *R* *R L* *mp* *ff* *f* *mp* *ffl mp* *f* *mf*

BassDr: *f* *mf* *ff* *mp* *ff* *R R L* *R* *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* *ffl mp* *f* *p* *ff* *ffl mp* *mf* *f* *mf* *ff*

Tenors: *ffl mp* *ffl mp* *ffl mp* *ff* *ffl mp* *ff* *ffl mp* *mp* *ff*

BassDr: *B* *mp* *ff* *ff* *mf* *mf* *ff* *ff* *ff*

Cym.L: [Orchestral] [Crashes] [Suc]

U 26 27 28 2 1 3 29 f 30

C

Snare
ff mp
 R L R L R L R L R R L L R L L R R L R R L R L R R L L L L R L R L R L R L R R L L R L L R GO - U - C - Bear-Cats
mp ff

Tenors
ff mp
 R L R L R L R L R R L L R L L R L L L R L L R L R L R L R GO - U - C - Bear-Cats
mp ff

BassDr
ff mf
 R L R L R L R L R L R L R L L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R R
f
mp ff

Cym.L
 Sizz/Suc
 Crash
 Crash
 Choke
 A B 31 A B 32 U 34 U 35 U

D

Snare
ff mp
 R LLRR LL... R RRLL RRLL R L R L R L RLLR L R L R L L L R L L R
ff mp

Tenors
ff mp
 R LLRR LL... R RRLL RRLL R L R L R L RLLR L R L R L R L L R L L R
ff mp

BassDr
ff mp
 R LLRR LL... R L R R L R L R R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R
mf ff mf

Cym.L
 Crash
 Choke
 Crashes
 U 36 U 38 U 39 U 40

♩=116
Solo SD- Tap Off

A All SD

1 2 3 4 5 6

ffl mp *fl mf* *ff ffl mp* *mf* *mp/ff* *fl mf* *ffl mp*

A5 Solo SD 1st Time- All SD Second Time

3 4 5 6

mp *f* *ff* *ffl*

7 8 9 10

A13 All SD

11 12 13 14

ff *ffl mp* *f* *mp* *ff ffl mp*

A18 Slaps Clicks

15 16 17 18 19

ffl mp *fff* *mf* *p* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mf* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

20 21 22

mf *mp* *f* *mp* *ffl mp* *mp* *ff* *ff*

B Front E. to C. Stick Slaps

23 24 25 26

ffl mp *f* *mp* *ff* *ffl mp* *ff* *f* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *ff*

27 28 29 30

ffl mp *f* *p* *ff* *ffl mp* *mf* *f* *mf* *ff*

C R. Twirl No Flam Here

31 32 33 34

ffl mp *ffl mp* *ff* *ffl mp*

35 36 37

mp *ff* *ffl mp* *ff*

GO - U - C - Bear - Cats

V.S.

38 *ff* *mp* R RR LL R RR LL R L R L R L R LL R L R L R L R L R L L R L R L R

39

40

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 ♩=144

Stickclicks

The musical score is written for a snare line in 4/4 time, marked 'Allegro con brio' with a tempo of 144 beats per minute. It consists of two staves. The first staff contains measures 1 through 16, and the second staff contains measures 17 through 28. The score includes various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, triplets, and rests. Dynamic markings such as *ff*, *mp*, and *ffl* are used throughout. There are two main sections: Section A (measures 1-16) and Section B (measures 17-28). Section A includes an 'OPTIONAL REPEAT' section from measure 14 to 15, with a note that if not repeated, the player should go to the 2nd ending instead. Section B is labeled 'SHORT TAG ENDING' and includes a '2. 3 3' ending. The score also features 'Stickclicks' in measures 1-2 and 'A/B Divisi' in measure 10. Measure numbers 1 through 28 are indicated below the staves.

1. 3 3

2. 3 3

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

SHORT TAG ENDING

