

## Front Ensemble Audition

The front ensemble audition packet will not only determine whether or not you will be placed in the front ensemble, it will also determine your specific instrument assignments for the season.

The first four exercises are the required part of the audition. Exercises 1 and 2 are to be played in all keys, 3 and 4 are to be played as written only. Learn all of the exercises as written first, then start practicing Ex. 1 and 2 in all of the keys, going up chromatically (C, C#, D, Eb, E, etc.).

Exercises 5 and 6 are optional for those students that already play 4-mallet. 4-mallet parts will only be given to those students that audition on Ex. 5 and 6.

Also, new to the audition this year is the mallet part to the fight song.

Some technique things to think about while you are practicing: accuracy always trumps speed. Only practice as fast as you can *comfortably* hit the right notes. Keep your mallet heads close to the instrument. Make sure that you are using your wrists only; pay special attention to this in exercises 3 and 6. Use a metronome when you practice. (No excuses! If you don't own one, you can download a free one onto your computer. Google is a beautiful thing.)

I know it is sometimes difficult to get access to a mallet instrument over the summer. Do the best you can. Even a piano played with 2 fingers and/or stickings and rhythms practiced on the floor are better than nothing. Take this opportunity to get familiar with all your major and harmonic minor scales.

For you upper-classmen, the exercises have changed some from last year. So give yourself a chance to get familiar with the changes.