



2025 UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND DRUMLINE

Greetings! Thank you for your interest in the University of Maryland Drumline, one of the most visible and exciting sections of The Mighty Sound Of Maryland (MSOM) Marching Band. Membership in the UMDrumline is by **audition only**, and is based on playing skills, attendance, attitude, and work ethic. This year's ensemble will consist of no more than 10 snares, 6 tenors, 8 basses, and 12 cymbals for a total of 36 players. MSOM does not have a front ensemble, but all percussionists regardless of instrumental focus or expertise are encouraged to audition!

Summer Drum Days

Saturday, May 17th, 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Saturday, June 14th, 9:00AM - 8:00PM

Saturday, July 12th, 9:00AM - 8:00PM

Location: Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, Room 2540 (Wakefield Band Room)
8720 Alumni Drive
College Park, MD 20742

Audition Information

Wednesday, August 20th, 9:00AM - 9:00PM

Location: Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, Room 2540

MSOM Band Camp (Early Week): Thursday, August 21st - Friday, August 29th

Auditions will be completed by Thursday evening the 21st. All new and returning members are required to audition for a spot in the UMDrumline.

Audition Material

Please visit the UMDrumline Website at umdbands.com/university-of-maryland-drumline to view and download the audition music in Google Drive called "**Audition Packet Music**". Make sure to prepare the entire exercise unless otherwise noted (this includes melodies for tenors). Snare will utilize traditional grip and tenors/basses/cymbals will utilize matched grip. As you prepare the material, *always practice and play along with a metronome and mark time*. No exceptions!

**New Members: keep in mind the list below is IN ADDITION TO what should be prepared for the Video Audition that is due July 1st (which is labeled "New Member Video Audition Music").*

Snare, Tenors, Bases

- 8's (basses be prepared to play any split part using 1's, 2's, 3's, and 4's)
- 6-8-7 w/ variations (1. decrescendo, 2. crescendo, 3. accent tap, 4. triple strokes)
- Patterns
- Trip Dub
- Stick Control
- Short Short Long
- Clocks
- S.P.R.E.T.

**tenors should prepare both "single-drum" and "around" parts* when notated*

**basses should be ready to play all split parts*

Cymbals (be prepared to play all split cymbal parts)

- 8's
- Short Short Long
- Clocks
- S.P.R.E.T.
- Seavine Exercise Packet (all six exercises presented)
- Take the Seavine Education Video Course, found here: <https://seavine.co/pages/education>

Audition Procedure

The audition will consist of BOTH individual and group evaluation. The results of the audition will be made aware to applicants prior to the start of Thursday evening's full band rehearsal. Students will select both a primary and secondary instrument for the audition. Students will perform on their primary instrument for the individual audition (always marking time). The secondary instrument should be prepared to the best of the student's ability (memorization not required). Personnel will rotate instruments throughout the group audition at the discretion of the staff.

Regarding audition preparation, we strongly urge members to be confident in their individual playing (timing, clarity, approach, overall sound, etc.) in order to set a strong foundation

within the ensemble setting of the percussion section. Your ability to play the basics well is more important than your ability to perform stick tricks, flashy licks, etc. Once again: no spot is guaranteed – all members (new members & vets) must go through the same audition process.

Though not required, you are **STRONGLY** encouraged to memorize all music for the audition. Members of UMDrumline will learn 7 different halftime shows throughout the fall as well as numerous stand tunes, pregame arrangements, cadences, and cheers. The skill of quickly learning and memorizing new music is crucial once the season starts. In addition to the playing audition, students will also be evaluated throughout the first week on marching fundamentals and responsiveness to instruction.

Important Information

On Summer Drum Days and Audition Day, The Mighty Sound Of Maryland will provide:

- Drums
- Carriers
- Cymbals
- Music & Instrument Stands

Bring the following items with you:

- This packet, along with printed audition sheet music in a 3-ring binder w/sheet protectors
- Comfortable, weather-appropriate athletic attire and athletic shoes (no jeans or sandals)
- Lunch (or \$\$)/snacks/large water bottle
- Sunscreen/sunglasses/hat (we will be outside all day in and out of shade)
- **EARPLUGS!** (specifically musician's earplugs, details listed on last page of this packet)
- Snare/tenor sticks (bass drum mallets will be provided)
- Instrument appropriate drum pads: snares/basses/cymbals - snare pad, tenors - 5 surface tenor pad (if available)
- Great attitude – come well prepared and ready to learn!

Please let me know if you have any questions, my contact information is below. We look forward to seeing you this summer, and GO TERPS!

Mr. Jeremy Maytum
Coordinator of Marching Percussion
The University of Maryland
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YAMAHA

UMDRUMLINE PHILOSOPHY

By Jeremy Maytum, UMDrumline Director | jcmaytum@umd.edu

As a marching percussionist for many years both as a performer and educator, I've found some 'absolute truths' that form the foundation of any great drumline. Still, there are many ways to achieve greatness. My methodology is a combination of the various instructors and schools of thought I've encountered over the years. Some of the ideas I present to you this season may be foreign; do your best to adapt and put the 'good of the group' in front of yourself. But in a more general sense:

Great drumlines do/have the following:

1. The ability to execute the fundamentals flawlessly (hence the inclusion of the many legato/accent-tap/timing exercises in this packet).
2. Each member demonstrates an understanding that they are part of a greater unit: this influences individual preparation, conduct, and performance
3. The ability to 'turn it on' once the sticks are in: energy, awareness, mental focus.
4. Rehearse Well:
 - Members are open to constructive criticism and consciously/consistently adapt to improve the sound of the group.
 - All members are prepared for rehearsal ahead of time to the best of their ability.
 - Rehearsal etiquette consists of an efficient 'chain of command' that starts with the instructor and trickles down to the section leader and/or appropriate squad leaders, who clearly communicate to their section as needed.
 - All communications are respectful, accurate, and clear. Critical commentary is often received as 'negative feedback', however to discourage poor playing it is necessary to achieve growth.

Great drumlines sound great due to:

1. Rhythmic Clarity: Unified rhythmic interpretation, keen listening skills, the ability to adjust one's rhythmic concept to play 'cleanly' within their section.
2. Balance & Blend: Ensemble balance between players and between sections of the line.
3. Musical Integrity: All members committing to the musical intent of the arranger: unified interpretation of dynamics, inflections, and other musical devices. The resulting clarity of intent creates musical excitement.

Great organizations are great because they:

1. Foster a positive environment that encourages personal growth, inclusion, and comfort.
2. Exude a 'family atmosphere.' ALL of us are important in making the group special.
3. Communicate problems/resolve conflicts in a respectful and amicable manner.
4. Communicate issues of attendance and schedule conflicts AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
5. Nearly always have fun as a result of all of the above!

It is my hope that you take this philosophy and apply to not only this experience, but many facets of your life outside of music. The points outlined above will aid in proper preparation for the fall season as long as they are deliberately followed. I really look forward to working with all of you and helping make this a very memorable year for this organization. Please contact me with any questions you may have, my door is always open.

UMDRUMLINE BATTERY TECHNIQUE

TIMING

As THE pulse-control center of The Mighty Sound of Maryland, the UMDrumline has the responsibility of keeping time for the rest of the ensemble - timing is key. For this reason, we will be "marking time" virtually anytime we play because great timing starts from the ground up. It is crucial that the feet act as the source of pulse so that the hands line up and "follow" the feet, not the other way around. Always practice with a metronome and always practice with the feet. Regarding the "mark time," your feet should be parallel - heels together, toes together. Make sure the ENTIRE foot comes evenly off of the ground about 1/2" and articulates back down on the beat. This should look relaxed but felt "fortissimo." Unless otherwise noted, we will always start off of the left foot.

SOUND

In order to produce the best sound possible on each instrument, several factors regarding approach must be considered. As you play, make sure that you strive to achieve a relaxed yet confident stroke and grip. Your grip should never "choke off" or inhibit the natural resonance of the stick or mallet. Additionally, it is important to utilize the drum's rebound at all times in order to keep the stick/mallet in motion at all times - any extra pressure in the grip will create an inefficient stroke off of the head. Consistent velocity between all dynamic levels while letting the sticks "breathe" will produce a healthy, full sound. A relaxed forte legato stroke should feel the same in the hands as a relaxed piano legato stroke.

***An important note about taps: taps make up the majority of all music the UMDrumline will be playing. Feel comfortable playing taps at true piano. For height reference, taps should never be higher than "parallel" to the playing surface. KEEP YOUR TAPS LOW!

SNARES/TENORS

The MSOM snare line plays with traditional grip - creating consistent sounds hand to hand is key. As the main articulation and melodic voices of the drumline, great rhythmic timing and confidence within the snare and tenor sections are crucial. Tenors: be able to play all warm-up exercises on drum 2. Additionally, the hands should always reset to drum 1 & 2 when not playing.

BASSES

In addition to preparing the "unison" parts of the exercises, please be familiar with all splits. Playing on a bass line, where you are virtually a soloist within a section, requires individual mental strength and precise timing. You may be asked to perform exercise splits by yourself. Always practice with a metronome while marking time.

THE MSOM CYMBAL LINE

As perhaps the most noticeable instrument on the field (both visually and aurally), upper body strength and timing are of utmost importance. The foundation of the MSOM Cymbal Line is built on the Seavine Educational Philosophy and is developed within its curriculum. In the audition, you may be asked to demonstrate standard crashes in variety of rhythms with a metronome while marking time.

***Note for all sections: Though the individual audition will factor into the results, we will also evaluate how well you work and learn in sectionals on musical/technical aspects in addition to how well you make progress throughout the summer and audition day.

STICK HEIGHTS & DYNAMICS

The chart below is merely a suggestion and/or starting point, as great lines consist of players with equally great ears for blending within an ensemble. Listening and adjusting to the sound of the line always takes precedence over heights and velocity (though clean lines tend to have equal height and velocity from player to player). The degrees listed are the angles created between the end of the implement and the playing surface. When appropriate, the instructor will mostly refer to dynamic levels in musical terms as opposed to numerical values due to the concept outlined above. *Where there is a range of degrees given, the decision comes from the section leader based on the musical situation.*

Dynamic	Angle - Height
pp	0 degrees at edge - 1"
p	0 degrees (natural playing position, has a downward/inward stick angle) - 1"
mp	15 degrees - 3"
mf	30-45 degrees - 6"
F	45-60 degrees - 9"
FF	60-75 degrees - 12"
FFF	90 degrees w/ arm - 15"

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Because your mental and physical well-being is important to us, please come to auditions and daily rehearsals ready to give your best effort. This includes :

- Being properly nourished, well-rested, etc.
- Wearing weather-appropriate and comfortable athletic attire, athletic shoes (no sandals).
- Always having your water bottle, sunglasses, sunscreen, etc.
- Bringing a positive mindset and attitude everyday!

EAR PLUGS ARE REQUIRED!!!

Tinnitus is a serious hearing condition that has emerged through careless marching percussion practices. The earplugs provided by the band should be considered for the wind section and color guard only, as they are not strong enough for the decibel levels reached by a marching percussion section. Etymotic Research makes effective and affordable musician’s earplugs that are readily available from Amazon and other retailers:

- *Etymotic Research ER20XS Hi-Fidelity Ear Plugs - 3 sizes available*

IT’S GOOD TO HAVE FUN, BUT IT’S ALSO FUN TO BE GOOD!