



To: Prospective Vanguard Cadets Percussionists
Re: 2019 Auditions/First Camp

I am glad you are interested in auditioning for the 2019 Vanguard Cadets Drum & Bugle Corps and look forward to meeting you! There are three separate audition locations, and you can choose whichever date and location is more convenient with no advantage of one over the other. Please see our website for more specific details.

- December 14-16 in San Jose, CA

The audition process will last the entire weekend in order for all staff members to make an accurate judgment of your playing ability. Everyone will be seen in a one-on-one audition as well as playing in the line. Your evaluation will be based upon:

- Timing
- Rhythmic Accuracy
- Quality of Sound
- Technique
- Strength/Chops
- Reading
- Attendance at Future Camps
- Commitment Level/Attitude

All rudimental percussionists should be prepared with a short solo demonstrating your abilities, no longer than 2 1/2 minutes. This can be newly composed or excerpts from previous shows or solos. Also, since we want to see you at your best, please be prepared with your own exercises demonstrating the following. Additional exercises will be given to you at the camp.

- 8's
- Accent Tap
- Double Beat
- Triple Beat
- Basic Diddle and roll exercises (duple & triplet based)
- Basic Flam Accent and Flam Tap Exercise
- Bass Drum auditions will occur mainly in the context of playing within the line, splitting exercises on different drums, and reading music.

All keyboard percussionists (and timpanists) should be prepared with a short 2 and/or 4 mallet solo or excerpt from a longer piece. You should also be prepared with exercises demonstrating:

- 2 mallet scales and arpeggios (major, minor, and chromatic)
- 4 mallet dexterity and blocked chords (Vibes: Burton grip, Marimba: Stevens grip)

If you are auditioning for the front ensemble it is not mandatory to perform on all instruments. If you are not equally strong in all areas of percussion, this will not count as a negative, however, your versatility could serve as a positive.

Please bring a couple of pairs of sticks and sets of mallets. We suggest:

- Innovative Percussion FS-PR2 Snare Stick
- Innovative Percussion TS-PR Multi-Tom Stick
- Innovative Percussion FS-4002 Marimba Mallet
- Innovative Percussion IP-AA25 Vibe Mallets

The exercises used for the audition will cover fundamentals and will be somewhat easy to understand. Once again, the emphasis will be placed on quality of sound, timing, rhythmic accuracy, and listening skills.

All exercises for battery and mallet players will be given to you at the camp and will not be mailed out. Please bring a drum if you are able – there is a strong possibility of having more players than equipment. If you have a conflict with the audition camps please e-mail well in advance.

I am certain it will be a successful year and I hope you can be a part of it. Good luck!

Sincerely,

Jesus Sanchez
Percussion Caption Manager
Vanguard Cadets Drum & Bugle Corps
cadets@scvanguard.org