



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

April 3, 2019

Dear Former and Future “Pride” Percussion Members,

This year’s “Pride of the Southland” percussion auditions will happen on July 12-14, 2019 on the UT campus in Knoxville. We are looking forward to another exciting season, and particularly to this year’s percussion audition weekend. If you are receiving this letter you are either a former member of the ensemble or have been accepted into the UT Band program for the upcoming 2019 season.

The July audition dates will determine what instrument you will play in the University of Tennessee Drumline. Students should prepare the enclosed packet of material on their 2 most desired instruments (i.e. snare & bass, or tenors & cymbals, etc.).

Auditions will take place both in an individual format and in an ensemble setting. Students should practice regularly with a metronome and note that much of the audition emphasizes individual accountability and preparation. Please consult the following FAQ’s as you prepare the attached materials.

Finally, please feel free to email us should you have any questions leading up to the audition. I look forward to meeting you and seeing those of you who will be returning for another great season. Go Vols!

Sincerely,

Andrew M. Bliss, DMA
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Director of Percussion Studies
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Frequently Asked Questions

UT Pride of the Southland Drumline

1) Should I mark time to these exercises?

Yes. Auditioning candidates should be able to mark time to all exercises with a clear sense of pulse coming from their feet.

2) Why are there 6+ bass drum lines in some of the music?

The UT Drumline uses 6-9 marching “melodic” bass drums in our standard instrumentation depending on that year’s roster.

3) What technique does the snare section use?

The snares use traditional grip at both the auditions and during the season.

4) Are any positions reserved for veteran members?

No. All positions are equally open to veterans and first-year students; freshman are able to make any section if they are prepared well enough and each year we have new students enter all sections of the drumline. Veterans are also able to retain their position or move to other sections provided they show the appropriate skills and preparation in the audition. All auditioning students should prepare these materials competitively.

5) What should I do if I live far away (at least 4 hours) and cannot attend the Spring audition camp due to travel distance?

On a case-by-case basis, we will accept video auditions submitted via URL (YouTube or Vimeo links). Students should contact Dr. Bliss immediately (abliss@utk.edu) to be considered for this arrangement. In these instances, audition videos must be uploaded by the night before the camp date, for full consideration.