

NOCO Honor Band Recording Instructions – PERCUSSION

Remember, your audition will be assessed for tone quality, rhythm, intonation (timpani), technique and musicality. Tempos for all scales and excerpts are indicated, however, the tempo should not detract from your technique, musicality, and quality of sound. If you need to go slower for your best performance, that would be our recommendation.

Instructions for completing your final audition submission:

These instructions need to be followed exactly. Any student that splices parts of an individual element together (i.e. piecing together multiple recordings of the snare audition), will be disqualified from the audition. Remember PERCUSSION AUDITIONS are video recordings (your wind friends only do audio). Make sure your instrument and hands are visible in the recording so the adjudicator can see your technique – including your beating spots.

The Process:

Record your introduction (This should all be done in one take – you can stop the recorder when done)
Name, Instrument, School, Year (Grade)

Mallets: This portion of the audition should all be done during the same recording session (do all the mallet elements, but you can do the snare and/or timpani audition at a different recording session)

- Major Scale (This should all be done in one take – you can stop the recorder when done. If you make a mistake or are unhappy with your recording, you may re-record this element, but it must be done in one take)
Announce which major scale
Play it (two octaves – in sixteenth notes – quarter note = 112) – no stops, no editing
Stop when you get a recording you're happy with
- Harmonic Minor Scale (This should all be done in one take – you can stop the recorder when done. If you make a mistake or are unhappy with your recording, you may re-record this element, but it must be done in one take)
Announce which HARMONIC minor scale you are playing
Play it (two octaves – in eighth notes – quarter note = 120) – no stops, no editing
Stop when you get a recording you're happy with
- Chromatic Scale (This should all be done in one take – you can stop the recorder when done. If you make a mistake or are unhappy with your recording, you may re-record this element, but it must be done in one take)
Play it (two octaves – in eighth notes – quarter note = 80) – no stops, no editing
Stop when you get a recording you're happy with
- Mallets: Prepared Excerpt (This should all be done in one take – you can stop the recorder when done. If you make a mistake or are unhappy with your recording, you may re-record this element, but it must be done in one take) - Play it to the best of your ability (nothing to announce. You may check your tempo before recording, but do not have a metronome sounding while recording).

Timpani: This portion of the audition should all be done during the same recording session (do all the timpani elements, but you can do the snare and/or mallet audition at a different recording session)

- Tuning: Have all the drums pre-set to their lowest pitch. Using any method you are comfortable with (pitch pipe, tuning fork, keyboard, mallet instrument) get the pitch of one of the drums and tune that drum. Tune the other drums however you are used to (getting a pitch or tuning by interval). You will be assessed not only on the accuracy of your tuning, but on the speed you can accurately tune. Immediately after you have tuned the drums, move on to performing the Prepared Excerpt:
- Timpani: Prepared Excerpt (This should all be done in one take – you can stop the recorder when done. If you make a mistake or are unhappy with your recording, you may re-record this element, but it must be done in one take – INCLUDING RE-RECORDING THE TUNING) - Play the excerpt to the best of your ability (nothing to announce. You may check your tempo before recording, but do not have a metronome sounding while recording).

Snare Drum: This portion of the audition should all be done during the same recording session (you can do the timpani and/or mallet audition at a different recording session)

- Snare Drum: Prepared Excerpt (This should all be done in one take – you can stop the recorder when done. If you make a mistake or are unhappy with your recording, you may re-record this element, but it must be done in one take) – Remember, all rolls should be played as concert (buzz) rolls. Play the excerpt to the best of your ability (nothing to announce. You may check your tempo before recording, but do not have a metronome sounding while recording).

The final step is to take your best recordings (your best major scale, your best timpani audition, etc.) and combine them into a SINGLE recording in the following order. This recording must be a single track, saved in .mp4 or .mov format. Be sure to name the recording as last name first name_instrument (i.e. WilliamsJohn_Percussion):

1. Announcement
2. Your best Major Scale
3. Your best Harmonic Minor Scale
4. Your best Chromatic Scale
5. Your best mallet audition
6. Your best timpani audition (tuning and excerpt)
7. Your best snare drum audition

All recordings are DUE TO YOUR BAND DIRECTOR no later than November 18 (check with them to make sure you know when they need the recording). Remember, you will need to complete your registration (nocohonorbands.org) and pay your director (\$15.00) for your audition before your director is able to upload the recording. Again, consult with them to know how they want you to complete the process.