

Dear Fresno State Musician,

This email serves to inform you of the Fresno State Wind Band audition process and timeline for the coming semester. Please read all of this information carefully. We work hard to provide comprehensive audition experience for our students. Rehearsals will begin on Tuesday, January 27, 2026. **THE LINKS TO OFFICIALLY REGISTER FOR AN AUDITION AND SUBMIT YOUR VIDEO ARE BELOW. PLEASE READ ON:**

As a reminder - **all Music Majors and Music Minors are required to perform in a major ensemble each semester.** Anyone who does not complete the audition process and achieve placement in a major ensemble will be required to forgo their individual lesson instruction for that semester. It is your responsibility to successfully and completely engage in the major ensemble audition process, which for the wind bands includes your audition packet (three etudes) and an in-person sight reading with scales and chromatic, held on campus.

Percussion Auditions will be live in the studio on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, beginning at 4:15pm. Please adhere to the schedule and process that Dr. Darling & Professor Gabrielson set up for you for the upcoming semester **but PERCUSSIONISTS MUST BE SURE TO COMPLETE THE GOOGLE FORM AS WELL.** <https://forms.gle/EZms2qijMP2PBJUY8>

Audition Packets - information and dates

The audition packets for both Symphonic Band and Wind Orchestra will be posted on our [website \(fresnostatebands.com\)](https://fresnostatebands.com) by **Friday January 2, 2026 by 11:59pm.** You should create a calendar notification to remind you to download the packet and begin preparations for the auditions. The packet will contain the following: Your notated, specified scales and chromatic (please note the articulation, marked tempos, and rhythmic patterns), studio etude, audition etude #1, audition etude #2. You should initiate a daily and organized preparation process to set yourself up for maximum success as these auditions are competitive.

The Audition Packet (studio etude, etude #1, etude #2) must be recorded (following the instructions) on video and submitted through a google form by Monday, January 19, 2026. Please ensure you have optimized your recording by testing your device and recording in a room that both enhances your sound, as well as eliminates other sounds from your recording. You should plan to record and review your preparations over several days to capture your best work before you complete the full recording of all three etudes, back-to-back, with no video splicing. These videos will be proctored and reviewed as "blind auditions", meaning we will not know who you are while you are performing on your video. During your preparation, please focus on the following, in this order:

1. Tone - We focus on this the most.
2. Pitch - Intervallic, sustained, and large leaps. Beautiful tone and pitch highly separate players, particularly in the scales.
3. Musicality & Style - Do shape and nuance exist? Do you articulate the style correctly and with inflection?
4. Rhythmic/Articulation Accuracy - Poor rhythm fundamentally changes the intent of the music. Practice with a metronome - constantly!
5. Right Notes - They matter, and good players don't miss notes, but these other things matter more.

Be purposeful in your practice, record yourself early on, review what you are producing, and be discerning in your planned changes. (CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

How do I officially register to perform an audition?

Access this Google Form link that must be completed (ALL WIND & PERCUSSION PLAYERS) to register for your official audition appointment:

<https://forms.gle/EZms2qijMP2PBJUY8>

After completing an official google form registration, students' next step will be to prepare the audition music and create their audition video.

Students should follow these procedures:

1. In order to continue the process of “Blind Auditions” an Audition Proctor will run a computer and play the sound from all auditions for Mr. McKeithen (and potentially other studio faculty) who will adjudicate all of the musicians. Only the Audition Proctor will know the names of the various student auditionees until the scores have been tabulated for each section of musicians.
2. Auditions must be recorded in video format. The video must include all of the music on the required audition sheet for each student’s instrument.
3. **Audition videos must be recorded all in one take with no editing** besides clipping the “dead space” at the beginning and ending of your audition.
4. It is suggested that students set up a recording space making sure that the recording device is a couple of feet away from the playing position in order to get the best quality sound.

Things to note when recording:

1. **Do not talk at any point in the video!** This will help you remain anonymous to the adjudicators.
2. After you have finished recording, listen back and make sure the audio is clear and loud enough.
3. Make sure the environment that you choose is quiet and be sure to eliminate any background noise.
4. Make sure to take a small pause, no longer than 5 seconds, between the excerpts.

You finish recording, what next?

1. You did it! Give yourself a pat on the back.
2. Label the video in this format: **(Instrument Name - Last name, First name)** ex. *Flute-Smith, John*
3. Please upload the audition video to YouTube and email the unlisted link with the subject as (last name/ First name- instrument) to wind.orchestra@mail.fresnostate.edu
4. Make sure you have submitted your audition video by **Monday, January 19, 2026 by 11:59 pm!**

*** NO AUDITION IS COMPLETE UNTIL BOTH THE VIDEO HAS BEEN SUBMITTED AND THE SIGHT READING/SCALES APPOINTMENT HAS BEEN PLAYED IN PERSON. ***

Sight Reading - information and dates

On Thursday, January 22, 2026, ALL AUDITIONEES must also perform their scales/chromatic, and a brief sight reading audition, IN PERSON, in the Music Building. This process will be the same as we used this past semester: essentially you will enter a room for a specified period of time where you will be able to review the sight reading piece. After that period, you will proceed into another room to perform the sight reading for the panelists, who will not be able to see who you are. Audition results will be posted no later than Friday, January 23, 2026 and you should then alter your ensemble registration at that time, if need be. **If you do not attend the sight reading auditions, you will not be placed in wind band for the upcoming semester.** Please set this date in your calendar.

We are extremely excited and anxious to get to make music with our students as early as we possibly can and we feel this audition process is the best path forward in achieving that goal. Please do your part by preparing your audition materials, diligently, and be ready to hit the ground running the first week of semester. *Enjoy the rest of your break!*

Good luck and don’t forget to have FUN with this educational process!

Fresno State Percussion Placement Auditions: Spring 2026
Symphony Orchestra, Wind Orchestra, Symphonic Band and
Percussion Ensemble.

Date: (Wednesday, January 14, 2026)

Time: 4:15pm – 7:00pm

Place: Percussion Studio (M132)

REQUIRED REPERTOIRE:

1. Xylophone: *American In Paris*, Gershwin [Reh '4' to '7' & 6 meas after reh '20' to reh '21']
 2. Snare Drum: *Alborada del Gracioso*, Ravel. Reh #32 to the end.
 3. Timpani: *The Planets*, "Mars," first 8 measures; "Uranus," Reh '5' to 11 measures before Reh '6' (as marked)
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IMPORTANT:

I. AS PER DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC POLICY, ALL MAJORS WITH PERCUSSION AS THEIR INSTRUMENT WHO ARE ENROLLED IN LESSONS MUST AUDITION FOR AND BE AVAILABLE TO PERFORM IN WIND ORCHESTRA, SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, AND SYMPHONIC BAND.

II. WHILE STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO CHOOSE A PREFERENCE ENSEMBLE (SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OR WIND ORCHESTRA), ACTUAL PLACEMENT INTO AN ENSEMBLE IS BASED ON HOW HIGH ONE RANKS IN THE AUDITION.

III. IF A STUDENT DOES NOT RANK HIGH ENOUGH TO GET INTO THEIR CHOSEN ENSEMBLE, THEY WILL BE PLACED IN SYMPHONIC BAND OR PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE, AGAIN DEPENDING ON RANKING IN THE AUDITION AND THE NEEDS OF THE MAJOR ENSEMBLES.

IV. STUDENTS ENROLLED IN MARCHING BAND (Fall only) SHOULD REQUEST WIND ORCHESTRA AS BMB CONFLICTS WITH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

V. MUSIC MINORS MAY CHOOSE TO USE PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE AS THEIR PRIMARY ENSEMBLE.

VI. MUSIC HAS BEEN SENT TO ALL NEW AND RETURNING STUDIO MEMBERS AS AN ATTACHMENT.

VII. SIGHT READING ON SNARE DRUM AND MARIMBA WILL BE PART OF THE AUDITION

Good Luck!!

Profs. Darling, Gabrielson and Downing

Xylophone

Gershwin

An American in Paris

[4]–[7] (condense rests)

AN AMERICAN IN PARIS

for Symphony Orchestra

GEORGE GERSHWIN

Edited and Revised by
F. Campbell-Watson

Xylophone

Allegretto grazioso

Xyl. *mp* 3 2 ① 8 ② 8 ③ Vigoroso Giocoso 4 4

④ Xyl. *mf* *giocoso* 3 ⑤ 8 ⑥ *mf* ⑦

An American in Paris

[20]–[21]

⑱ 8 ⑲ Molto meno mosso 8 ⑳ Subito animato a tempo Bells! *mf* 1 1 1

Xyl. *p* *f* ⑳ ㉑ 5

Snare Drum

Alborada del Gracioso Ravel

30 6 31 4 32 (on the rim)

(english horn) *pp* 3 3 3 3

2 33 (on the head) *p* *ff*

34 *ff*

35

Planets - "Mars" Holst

$\text{♩} = 156$ Plan 8 measures

Allegro
wooden sticks¹

3x %1

Planets - "Uranus" Holst

starts $\text{♩} = 112$ (felt in 2)

Play Top line

* *p* *dim.*

* *p*

* *p* *1*

* *Solo* *f* *stop* *mp*

Solo *f* *6*