Virginia Tech offers studies in percussion to talented students pursuing training in music performance, education, technology, and composition. Individual applied lessons for music majors and select music minors focus on a wide range of percussion instruments and are taught by Dr. Annie Stevens. Our students have countless opportunities to perform on campus and in the community as soloists, in the VT Percussion Ensemble, and as members of the larger instrumental ensembles such as the New River Valley Symphony Orchestra, the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, and the Jazz Ensemble. The VT Percussion Ensemble performs exciting repertoire including historic chamber music, arrangements of classical and pop repertoire, world percussion, mallet ensembles, and works for percussion with media. Recently, the VT Percussion Ensemble performed a unique concert in the CUBE at the Moss Arts Center where they performed alongside original accompanying film, as well as incorporated the facility’s 128 surround sound speakers. Students have the unique opportunity to study with guest artists throughout the year and perform alongside them in the concert hall. Through challenging coursework and a wide range of performance opportunities, our graduates emerge as versatile musicians ready for advanced degrees or careers in education, technology, and many other fields.

Course Offerings

**Individual Applied Percussion:**
Private instruction on all percussion instruments, with focus on snare drum, mallet instruments, timpani, and drum set; as well as a weekly studio class in which the students have the opportunity to perform for one another.

**Percussion Ensemble:**
Preparation of percussion chamber music repertoire with multiple performance opportunities throughout the semester. Open to all VT undergraduate and graduate students by audition.

**Marching Percussion Techniques Course:**
Instruction on battery percussion instruments during the spring semester.

**Percussion Literature and Pedagogy:**
Study of percussion repertory and teaching methods from the mid-twentieth century to the present. Extensive stylistic analysis and performance practice.

For More Information
Contact Annie Stevens by phone at 540.231.5604 or e-mail at ajs@vt.edu.

www.performingarts.vt.edu
RECOMMENDED PERCUSSION REPERTORY

Applicants should bring sticks, mallets, and music. The university will provide instruments and stands unless the performer prefers to bring personal equipment. All applicants must perform an etude or solo on snare drum, mallets, and timpani. Though not required, the applicant is encouraged to perform on drum set as well. See below for the appropriate repertoire for each instrument (please note that these are just suggestions).

SNARE DRUM (Sight-reading will be asked.)
- Concert-Style Etude or Solo. Selections from the following books would be appropriate:
  - Intermediate or Advanced Studies for Snare Drum by Mitchell Peters
  - Portraits in Rhythm by Anthony Cirone
  - Douze Etudes by Jacques Delecluse
- Rudimental-Style Solo. Selections from the following books would be appropriate:
  - Contemporary Rudimental Studies and Solos by Lalo Davila
  - The All American Drummer or Modern Rudimental Swing Solos by Charlie Wilcoxon

MARIMBA / XYLOPHONE / VIBRAPHONE (Sight-reading will be asked.)
- Scales and Arpeggios: Perform 2-octave major scales and major arpeggios.
- 2-mallet solo on marimba, xylophone, or vibraphone: A prepared piece or etude. Memorization is not required. An etude from the following books is recommended:
  - Masterpieces for Marimba by Thomas McMillan
  - Modern School for Xylophone, Marimba, and Vibraphone by Morris Goldenberg
  - Xylophone rag of choice
- 4-mallet solo on marimba or vibraphone: A prepared piece or etude. Memorization is not required. A selection from the following list is appropriate:
  - Sea Refractions by Mitchell Peters
  - Yellow After the Rain by Mitchell Peters
  - Rhythm Song by Paul Smadbeck
  - Etudes by Claire Omar Musser
  - Solos by Keiko Abe

TIMPANI
- An etude from the following books is recommended:
  - Fundamental Method for Timpani by Mitchell Peters
  - Modern Method for Timpani by Saul Goodman
  - The Solo Timpanist by Vic Firth

DRUM SET (optional)
- Demonstrate proficiency in rock, swing, and Latin styles.

ORCHESTRAL EXCERPTS (optional)
- Perform standard excerpts on snare drum, mallets, timpani and accessories.

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