



Donner Mine Music Camp AUDITION PROCEDURE



Donner Mine Music Camp aims to promote the pursuit of musical excellence by offering challenging and enriching musical experiences that propel young musicians toward their highest potential and joy. Our staff and counselors exemplify the highest levels of musical proficiency. Through their mentoring and personal enthusiasm for music, they inspire students to develop a deep passion for musical learning.

Auditions are just one aspect of the process that aids in enhancing your skills and fostering confidence over time. We recommend that you prepare for your Donner Mine Music Camp Audition before camp commences. Your audition will demonstrate the skills you have already mastered, allowing our staff to organize bands and provide the best support possible throughout the week, including private lessons and sectionals. The audition times and locations will be posted on a whiteboard in the main lobby.

Please feel free to seek guidance from staff members or counselors without hesitation.

Please be prepared to:

I. Play the following **scales** listed below. (You'll find scales on our website for your convenience)

1. The chromatic scale within your playing range (low to high and back down again).
2. Concert Bb major scale
3. Concert Eb major scale
4. Concert C major scale
5. Concert F major scale
6. **Advanced Players only:** Concert G major.
7. **Advanced Players only:** Concert G harmonic minor

II. Play a **Prepared Solo:**

- Perform a selection of your choice *lasting up to one minute*.
- The solo should be selected to demonstrate your best tone, range, and technique.
- Bring the music with you so the adjudicator can follow along while you play.

III. Sight **Reading:**

- The adjudicator will pick a selection or two for you to sight-read from the band music for the week.
- Take a moment to look it over and set a reasonable tempo.
- Review Key signatures, time signatures, tempos, accidentals, rhythms (set your speed for the hardest parts), and the Road Map (repeats, D.C. al Coda, multiple endings, etc).
- Find a steady, moderate tempo before you start, and try to keep the time even.

JAZZ AUDITIONS:

- If you are interested in auditioning for the Jazz Band, please prepare a second selection of a similar length to demonstrate jazz style. Let the concert adjudicator know you are interested in auditioning for the Jazz Band.
- Drummers, be prepared to demonstrate different styles (i.e. Latin, rock, swing, etc).
- People who play a different Jazz instrument, please audition first on your concert band instrument, then go to the appropriate Jazz instrument site with your secondary instrument. For example, a flute player who also plays sax in jazz, etc).

PERCUSSIONISTS:

- You will meet with the Percussion instructor, Katie, on the “Slab” for placement.
- Be prepared to demonstrate your knowledge of fundamental rudiments and mallet playing.
- Have a small solo excerpt for snare and bells to demonstrate your skills (Unlike the advice for other instruments, these CAN be from band pieces).

PIANO AND BASS PLAYERS:

You will also audition on the slab. Be sure you bring a solo to demonstrate your skills.

- Piano players should know how to comp chords.

SOLO RESOURCES:

- Ask your teacher or fellow musicians for ideas **before** leaving for summer vacation. Concert and Contest Collection, Voxman (most junior high honor band music is from this series)
- Rubank Method Books: Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced Levels
- All-State Honor Band Audition Music <https://cbda.org/all-state-ensembles/auditions/>
- Fundamental Studies for Snare Drum, Whaley (JR Publications)
- 8 notes website <https://www.8notes.com/> (Online access to free sheet music for all instruments)
- JW Pepper <https://www.jwpepper.com/sheet-music/welcome.jsp> (great resource for purchasing music, solo, small ensemble, large ensemble)
- Local Music Stores
- For scale access, please visit the ‘Scales and More’ section under the audition procedure tab on the dmmc.org website.

Do's:

- Come prepared! Work on your music ahead of time!
- Pick a solo that demonstrates your skills in a way that you can execute confidently.
- Settle your breath before starting. Three deep breaths to calm your nerves.
- Take time to look over the music before you start your sight reading. (1 - 3 minutes)
- Do your best, and be okay with where you are at musically. Not all students come with the same amount of experience, and that is perfectly acceptable. You are a work in progress and you're here to grow.
- Know that your audition is just a few minutes and then you're off to meet more friends!
- Practice your scales before camp and try to extend the range if you can (from one octave to two or three).
- Remind your parent that students audition **without** friends or family.
- Find a solo appropriate for your instrument and your current playing level. (See above for some resource ideas)

Don'ts:

- Play your part from band music if you can help it.
- Play things too fast. Slower tempos will help support accuracy.
- Let a frustrating audition shape your attitude about camp. We're all here to have a good time and we're happy you are with us, no matter what your seat placement is.
- Worry too much about your audition! We are all here to learn and make music!
- Play in the hallway of the auditions or near audition areas. It will be distracting to those who are auditioning.