

Desert Vista Thunder Marching Band
2018 Front Ensemble Audition Expectations

1. **Sound:** Demonstrate use of the piston stroke (start and end at the up position without a preparatory stroke) in the following exercises:
 - a. Singles – all 12 major keys
 - b. Up 5 Down 5 – all 12 major keys
 - c. Jig
2. **Sound:** Demonstrate the use of the legato stroke on the same exercises.
3. **Sound:** Demonstrate use of the full, down, tap, and up strokes
4. **Sound:** Demonstrate the following principles of playing zones:
 - a. Play in the center of the keys
 - b. Move arms as necessary to accommodate playing zones
 - c. Have both the left and right mallets hit the same area of the bars
 - d. Keep hands in proper relationship to the keys to ensure playing with the proper part of the mallet head
5. **Sound:** Demonstrate ensemble skills:
 - a. Play exercises in a variety of given tempi
 - b. Match the volumes of neighbors
 - c. Use non-verbal communication to play at the same speed/volume as neighbors
6. **Visual:** Demonstrate proper grip:
 - a. Establish a fulcrum between the thumb and index finger
 - b. Maintain contact with the back three fingers
 - c. Angle the mallet shaft so that it creates an obtuse angle with the forearm as opposed to a straight line
 - d. Two inches of mallet shaft stick out from the back of the hand
7. **Visual:** Demonstrate the processes of the set position:
 - a. Properly bring mallets up to the keyboard during a count-off
 - b. Properly bring mallets to an appropriate starting position during a count-off
 - c. Properly end an exercise with mallets in the correct “up” position
 - d. Maintain “set” throughout (focus of eyes, not talking, etc...)
8. **Visual:** Demonstrate proper playing posture:
 - a. Keep the upper back straight rather than hunched
 - b. Evenly distribute weight between feet, keep uncrossed
 - c. Keep arms at an appropriate height and distance from body
 - d. Keep the head up to focus on looking down more peripherally