DMA – Prospective DMA students should prepare a video recorded audition of at least 30 minutes in length. Memorization is neither required nor discouraged. There should be no edits within any single composition. Multi movement works should be recorded in a single take. The audition process will also include an online interview held on scheduled audition days.

The applicant must submit a complete repertoire list of all works studied during the application process.

Repertoire: The DMA applicant is required to perform on at least five percussive instrumental areas (outlined below). Four mallet marimba (or vibraphone), two-mallet marimba (or xylophone), and snare drum are required areas with the remaining areas to be chosen by the student based on his/her abilities and future career goals.

Percussive Areas for the Audition

Required Areas:
- Marimba (4 mallet) – Repertoire should be of significant maturity to represent musical and technical command. A significant 4-mallet vibraphone solo (in the Western classical music tradition) can be performed in place of the marimba solo.
- Marimba or xylophone (2 mallet) - Composition demonstrating 2 mallet keyboard percussion technique. A work from the ragtime era or other works that demonstrate advanced 2 mallet technical/musical skills can be used to fulfill this requirement.
- Snare Drum – Concert style etude or solo of significant musical and technical maturity. Rudimental style solo or etude.

Possible Choice Areas to Complete the Five Percussive Areas:
- Timpani – Significant etude, solo or 3-4 major orchestral excerpts. If orchestral repertoire is chosen, at least two style periods should be represented.
- Multiple Percussion – Work or movement(s) of a work from a mature composition for multiple percussion.
- Various Orchestral Excerpts - Significant orchestral excerpts performed on a variety of instruments. This might include excerpts performed on xylophone, snare drum, tambourine, triangle, glockenspiel, cymbals, etc.
- Drum Set – Demonstration of various styles and forms to include stylistically appropriate time keeping and soloing.
- World Percussion – Stylistically appropriate performance of a chosen style(s) found in non-Western musical cultures. In choosing this area, the student is expected to understand the musical style they are performing. In other words, a free improvisation that is not founded on cultural traditions is not appropriate for this part of the audition.

Further Thoughts on Audition Repertoire

Applicants may choose to perform on more than five percussive areas. Performance examples such as jazz vibraphone, chamber music or non-culturally based hand drumming can be used to augment the five areas.

Percussive diversity is a core principle of the UW-Madison percussion program, though under unique circumstances (based on the student’s career goals), a more focused approach to the audition and degree process can be discussed. If the applicant would like to pursue a more focused audition and degree process, please contact Dr. Anthony Di Sanza.