



## ***Gottry Percussion Studio***

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### **Lesson Handbook**

The intent of this handbook is to provide a framework for each student's success in percussion lessons. By laying out a set of structured expectations, every student and parent is aware from the onset of what will allow them to gain the most from private study. Greater achievement by each student promotes greater achievement by the studio as a whole. Clear initial expectations provide increased stability within the studio and for each student.

#### **Practice Expectations**

Consistent, significant practice is necessary for successful progress on any musical instrument. Weekly assignments will be given based on the expectation that each student will practice six (6) days for a daily length of time equal to the student's lesson length (i.e. half-hour lesson equals 30 minutes of daily practice). If needed, some students may be instructed to document practice time and items practiced. An example practice routine is as follows (based on 30 minutes):

- 5 minutes warm-up/rudiments/scales
- 10 minutes etudes/solo
- 10 minutes solo
- 5 minutes sight-reading (or additional technique/solo work)

#### **Payment Structure**

Lessons are to be paid on a monthly basis at the first lesson of each month. Payment may be by cash or check made payable to Josh Gottry. Any excused or teacher cancelled lessons will be credited to the following month. If a student discontinues lessons for any reason, advance lesson payments will not be reimbursed. If you have any questions on current balance, feel free to ask any time.

#### **Lesson Attendance**

Consistent lesson attendance is crucial to making consistent progress. Since a full percussion studio rarely allows for make-up lessons, it is imperative that students make lessons a priority in their schedule. If a student must cancel due to an irresolvable conflict, notification of the cancellation must be provided no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday of the previous week. Cancellation due to illness must be provided by 10:00 a.m. on the morning of the lesson. Lack of preparation or busy schedules are not suitable excuses for lesson cancellation. Students will be allowed no more than one excused lesson per month during the school year. Lessons may be offered during some holidays (i.e. President's Day, Labor Day, Christmas Break, etc.) with no penalty for cancellations.

#### **Performance Opportunities**

All students are expected to take advantage of as many performance and audition opportunities as possible to further their musical growth. The following are some events that may be available to you.

- Studio Recitals (typically 2 per year in October and April) – these are open to any students showing appropriate progress in lessons and prepared with a recital appropriate piece. All students not performing are expected to attend so they can support the performers and learn from other members of the studio.
- **PSG Young Musicians Competition** *Mid January* (registration in late October) advanced jr. high and high school
- **AMEA State Solo & Ensemble** *Late January* (registration in mid Nov.) high school
- **AMEA Regional Honor Band Auditions** *Late January* (registration in mid Nov.) high school
- **AMEA Elementary & Junior High Solo & Ensemble** *Late February* (registration in early Jan) elementary & jr. high
- **AZPAS Spring Days of Percussion** *Late March* (registration in early February) all students

## Ensemble Membership Requirement

All students with percussion opportunities (i.e. band, percussion class, etc.) at their school are expected to fully participate. Home school students or those without a band or percussion class at their school are highly encouraged to pursue other ensemble opportunities. Some options available are:

- Youth Symphonies (Phoenix Symphony Guild; Southwest Youth Symphony; Arizona Youth Symphony; Metropolitan Youth Symphony) – intermediate to advanced students; band & orchestra ensembles with weekly evening rehearsals
- Local Public School Program – home school students may register for band class at their district schools
- Community College ensembles – percussion ensembles and community bands including high school age students
- Church praise band or worship team opportunities – talk with your pastor, youth pastor, or music minister

## Materials

Students must bring all materials to all lessons, including mallets, snare sticks (specific to drumset, marching, or concert snare as appropriate), notebook, methods and/or solo music. Failure to come prepared with all necessary materials more than once per month may result in cancellation of that lesson without reimbursement. Unlike most other instrumentalists, percussion students are not typically expected to own many of the instruments they play. Rather, many instruments are available for use at school and students are responsible for sticks, mallets, and possibly other small implements. In that regard, here are my expectations as to what students at each level should own.

Grade School (5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Grade)	Junior High School (7 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> Grade)	High School (10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Grade)
<b>All items marked with * are considered recommended but optional.</b>		
Student Percussion Kit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bell Set</li> <li>• Practice Pad</li> <li>• Stand (for bells &amp; pad)</li> </ul> Snare Drum Sticks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pro-Mark or Vic Firth SD1</li> </ul> Bell Mallets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balter 10B (hard plastic)</li> </ul> Metronome (w/ light & headphone jack)	Practice Pad Stick/Mallet Bag <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• for at least 6-8 pairs</li> <li>• consider one with pockets for sheet music &amp; method books</li> </ul> Snare Drum Sticks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pro-Mark or Vic Firth SD1</li> <li>• *Pro-Mark or Vic Firth 5A Nylon Tip</li> </ul> Bell Mallets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balter 10B (hard plastic)</li> </ul> Xylophone/Marimba Mallets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balter 104B (medium rubber)</li> <li>• *Balter 83B (medium-hard yarn)</li> </ul> *Timpani Mallets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balter T2 or Pro-Mark ATP2</li> </ul> Metronome (w/ light & headphone jack)	Practice Pad Stick/Mallet Bag <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• for at least 12-15 pairs</li> <li>• consider one with pockets for sheet music &amp; method books</li> </ul> Snare Drum Sticks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pro-Mark or Vic Firth SD1</li> <li>• Pro-Mark or Vic Firth 5A Nylon Tip</li> <li>• Pro-Mark or Vic Firth DC1</li> </ul> Bell Mallets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balter 10B (hard plastic)</li> </ul> Xylophone Mallets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balter 104B or R (medium rubber)</li> <li>• Balter 91B or R (poly ball)</li> </ul> Marimba Mallets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 pr - Balter 83B (med.-hard yarn)</li> <li>• *2 pr – Balter 183B (soft yarn)</li> </ul> *Vibraphone Mallets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 pr – Balter 25R (medium-hard cord)</li> </ul> *Timpani Mallets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balter T2 or Pro-Mark ATP2</li> <li>• Balter T3 or Pro-Mark ATP3</li> </ul> Trap Table Cloth (i.e. black hand towel) Metronome (w/ light, headphone, & subdivisions) Pitch Pipe or Tuning Fork (for timpani tuning)
<b>Other Notes</b>		
Students' study at this time will be fairly evenly distributed between snare drum and mallet percussion to establish the necessary foundation for total percussion. Although enticing, it is recommended that students wait a minimum of one year before expanding their study to other areas (i.e. drumset).	By the time a student reaches junior high or middle school, most mallet percussion practicing will be done on school instruments (i.e. xylophone, marimba). The bell set becomes a convenience rather than a necessity and the student's mallet collection should grow noticeably. Students should always keep a practice pad for "quiet" practice times and some students may decide at this time to purchase a snare drum or drumset.	During high school, students will likely participate in marching percussion, be introduced to 4-mallet technique, and be given percussion solo and/or ensemble opportunities. Advanced students may consider purchasing a mallet instrument (i.e. xylophone, marimba). Other small instrument purchases (bongos, congas, djembe, cowbell, woodblock) make great gifts or short-term savings goals for students.

## **Areas of Study**

This studio is operated under the philosophy of *Total Percussion*. Students are expected to pursue performance skills and musical understanding in the areas of snare drum, drumset or multiple percussion, and mallet percussion. As appropriate, students will also study elements of timpani, hand held percussion, marching percussion, and ethnic percussion. During any given semester, students should expect to spend lesson and practice time in at least two of these areas of percussion. As long as the student meets a reasonable level of proficiency in all areas, additional emphasis may be spent on the area of greatest interest to that student.

## **Communication**

Students and parents are encouraged to contact me with any questions or concerns by e-mail (anytime) or by phone (8 a.m. - 9 p.m.). Communication to students and parents, such as schedule changes, upcoming performances and recitals, percussion opportunities of interest, etc., will be distributed in writing at lessons and posted on my website ([www.gottrypercussion.com](http://www.gottrypercussion.com)). I will also maintain a list of student e-mail addresses and phone numbers for communication purposes.

## **Lesson Scheduling**

It is my intention to maintain a fairly consistent schedule of teaching times from year to year. Students will be given the opportunity to schedule lesson times for each school year during the month of July, with priority given to continuing students who have shown consistent preparation and progress in their study. Students will also be given priority for their same lesson time from year to year. Consideration will be made for each student's availability as possible, and flexibility is certainly appreciated due to the logistics of scheduling a full studio. Minor adjustments to the studio schedule may be possible from fall to spring semesters, but is dependent on the willingness of two or more students to switch lesson times. Summer lesson times will be designed independent of the school year schedule and slightly more flexible. Summer attendance expectations will be provided when each year's summer schedule is released. A studio waiting list will be kept at all times for students unable to schedule a lesson time.

## **Percussive Arts Society**

All students are strongly encouraged to consider membership in the Percussive Arts Society. PAS is a worldwide organization whose purpose is educational, promoting through its activities a wide range of musical knowledge, encompassing the young percussion student, the teacher, and the performer. Its mission is to facilitate communication among all areas of the percussive arts. PAS accomplishes its goals through its 6 annual issues of *Percussive Notes* and 6 annual issues of *Percussion News*, its worldwide network of chapters, and its annual International Convention. More information is available at [www.pas.org](http://www.pas.org). Student membership is as little as \$28 per year and includes all materials posted on the PAS website (chat rooms, past and present publications, etc.). Reviews of percussion related articles (as found in PAS publications) may be assigned as relates to current lesson topics.

## **Finale Notepad Notation Software**

A free version of the industry standard composition and notation program, *Finale*, is available for download at [www.finalemusic.com](http://www.finalemusic.com). Students may be asked to complete composition assignments related to current lesson topics and they are encouraged to make use of current technologies to assist in those assignments.

## **Required Methods & Solo Materials**

*Stick Control* by George Lawrence Stone

Solo literature (as determined)

Method books to be primarily selected from:

- Keyboard Percussion
  - Whaley *Fundamental Studies for Mallets*
  - Goldenberg *Modern School for Xylophone*
  - Moyer *Four Mallet Method*
  - Zivkovic *Funny Marimba Bk. 1; Funny Xylo. Bk. 1; My First Book for Xylo. & Marimba*
- Snare Drum
  - Whaley *Fundamental Studies for Snare Drum*
  - Whaley *Musical Studies for the Intermediate Snare Drummer*
  - Cirone *Portraits in Rhythm*
  - Freytag *The Rudimental Cookbook*

- Drumset
  - Houghton *Essential Styles Book 1*
  - Holmquist *Drumset Etudes (Bk 1, 2, or 3)*
  - Igoe *Groove Essentials*

Suplimental Materials

- Lessons Online music and articles from gottrypercussion.com
- Copied handouts, articles, and etudes

**Recommended Percussion Equipment & Music Sources**

- Steve Weiss Music  
www.steveweissmusic.com  
2324 Wyandotte Rd., Willow Grove, PA 19090  
(215) 659-0100
- The Music Store  
2630 W. Baseline Rd., Mesa, AZ 85202 (NE Corner of Baseline Rd. and Loop 101)  
(480) 831-9691
- Guitar Center  
1245 W. Elliot Rd., Tempe, AZ 85284 (1/2 mile East of I-10)  
(480) 753-6900
- Milano’s Music  
38 W. Main St., Mesa, AZ 85201 (Downtown Mesa)  
(480) 833-7873

**Study & Performance Expectations:**

All students demonstrate different strengths, weaknesses, interests, and natural abilities. Additionally, each student progresses through lesson materials at a slightly different pace. However, in an effort to provide a model for typical progress, students, parents, and I will utilize the following chart based on student level and areas of study.

<b>Keyboard Percussion</b>	
<b>Level 1 (approximately 1 year)</b>	<b>Level 2 (approximately 1 year)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fundamental Studies for Mallets – Section I</li> <li>• My First Book for Xylo. &amp; Marimba – Solos 1-7</li> <li>• Major scales up to 4 flats or 4 sharps by memory</li> <li>• Chromatic scale by memory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fundamental Studies for Mallets – Section II</li> <li>• My First Book for Xylo. &amp; Marimba – Solos 8-15</li> <li>• All Major scales by memory</li> </ul>
<b>Level 3 (approximately 2 years)</b>	<b>Level 4 (approximately 2 years)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funny Xylophone Book 1 – selected solos</li> <li>• Funny Marimba Book 1 – Solos 1-5</li> <li>• Four Mallet Method</li> <li>• All Minor scales by memory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modern School for Xylophone – selected Roman Numeral Etudes</li> <li>• Funny Marimba Book 1 – Solos 6-10</li> <li>• Four Mallet Method</li> <li>• All Major arpeggios by memory</li> </ul>
<b>Snare Drum</b>	
<b>Level 1 (approximately 1 year)</b>	<b>Level 2 (approximately 1 year)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fundamental Studies #1-62</li> <li>• Ten PAS rudiments by memory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fundamental Studies – remainder of book</li> <li>• Musical Studies – 2 to 3 etudes per semester</li> <li>• Twenty PAS rudiments by memory</li> </ul>
<b>Level 3 (approximately 2 years)</b>	<b>Level 4 (approximately 2 years)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Musical Studies – 4 to 5 etudes per semester</li> <li>• Rudimental Cookbook – easy solos</li> <li>• All Forty Standard PAS Rudiments by memory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rudimental Cookbook – 3 to 4 medium or advanced solos</li> <li>• Portraits in Rhythm – 2 to 3 etudes per semester</li> <li>• Additional hybrid rudiments as appropriate</li> </ul>
<b>Drumset</b>	
<b>Level 1 (approximately 1 year)</b>	<b>Level 2 (approximately 1 year)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to play time and fills for Rock, Swing, Bossa Nova, &amp; Samba</li> <li>• Drumset etudes Bk. 1 – 3 to 4 etudes per semester</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essential Styles Bk.1 or Groove Essentials – 12 styles</li> <li>• Drumset Etudes Bk. 1 – 4 to 5 etudes per semester</li> </ul>
<b>Level 3 (approximately 1 year)</b>	<b>Level 4 (approximately 1 year)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essential Styles Bk. 1 or Groove Essentials – 20+ styles</li> <li>• Drumset etudes Bk. 1 – 5 to 6 etudes per semester</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essential Styles Bk. 1 or Groove Essentials – completed</li> <li>• Drumset Etudes Bk 2 – 4 to 5 etudes per semester</li> </ul>