

## Read this entire packet in sequential order!

This packet was created to prepare auditionees with everything they need to be ready for band camp. While this packet is long, it has everything necessary for the audition process. All of this information was put together by members of both lines, so this is a valuable way to learn from those who have already gone through the audition!

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PUDL Audition Packet Contact Information

### **Contact Information**

#### **Director of Percussion at Purdue University**

Dr. Pamela Nave: pjnave@purdue.edu

#### "All-American" Marching Band Drumline Section Leader

Corbin Richardson: richa578@purdue.edu

Dr. Nave is responsible for the percussion program at Purdue and she is the faculty director of both the "All-American" Marching Band Drumline and the "Boiler Beats" Tailgate Drumline. You can read more about her in the "Dr. Nave and the Philosophy of Percussion Education" section. Corbin is the student section leader for the "All-American" Marching Band. Reach out to either of them if you have any questions.

In addition to Dr. Nave and Corbin, each section of the "All-American" Marching Band has two student segment leaders. In homage to our history as a military band, we use a military naming style for our student leaders. The "1" is the segment leader for the instrument, and the "10" is the assistant segment leader for the instrument. This wording comes from the idea of marching in ranks of 10. In this style, the leader of the rank would be on the far left (in the "1" spot), and the assistant leader would be on the far right (in the "10" spot). The eight members of their rank would be between them (in spots 2-9). While we still use the titles of "1" and "10," we do not necessarily march in that order. For example, the bass 1 marches in position based on which bass drum they play, not their rank. Feel free to reach out to your instrument's segment leaders if you have an instrument-specific question!

#### "All-American" Marching Band Snare Segment Leaders

Corbin Richardson (1): richa578@purdue.edu Jude Siddiqui (10): jsiddiq@purdue.edu

#### "All-American" Marching Band Quad Segment Leaders

Nathan Kinney (1): nkinney@purdue.edu Rylan Cripe (10): criper@purdue.edu

#### "All-American" Marching Band Bass Segment Leader

Ollie Kaufhold (1): okaufhol@purdue.edu

#### "All-American" Marching Band Cymbal Segment Leaders

MJ Smith (1): smit4722@purdue.edu Cadance Rose (10): rose249@purdue.edu

#### **World's Largest Drum Crew Captains**

Isaak Gutierrez (1): gutie206@purdue.edu
Darby Waund (10): dwaund@purdue.edu

# Introduction from Dr. Nave and the Drumline Section Leader

So you're considering trying out for membership in the Purdue Drumline? That's awesome! **Established in 1886,** the Purdue "All-American" Marching Band has become an icon of Purdue University and the Big Ten and is widely recognized as an international leader in the entertaining performing arts. We wow tens of thousands of fans on game days during football season. Each May, we perform for hundreds of thousands as the official marching band of the Indianapolis 500. In 2010, the band was selected to lead the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and, since then, the band has headlined the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin — three times!

While you may be new to the Big Ten college band environment, it is not radically different from your past experiences in high school band — thousands of auditionees have made the transition with no problem! You can still find ways to participate in DCI/WGI on the side if you have that competitive bug.

The "All-American" Marching Band Drumline is filled with highly positive, upbeat people who show up excited to drum every day. One thing to keep in mind: just because none of our members are studying to be professional musicians doesn't mean we don't take practicing/performing seriously! We still expect all of our members to work hard, learn their stuff, and show up with a positive attitude. In addition to helping you become a top-tier percussionist, participating in our program will immediately make you a teammate (and family member) of the entire Purdue Percussion community, which has been around for well over 100 years.

Purdue's Marching Percussion Program is made up of four separate entities: (1) the "All-American" Marching Band Drumline, (2) the Boiler Beats Tailgate Drumline, (3) the World's Largest Drum™ crew, and (4) the "All-American" Marching Band Drum Majors.

- 1. The "All-American" Marching Band Drumline is an integral part of the Purdue "All-American" Marching Band. They captivate audiences at Purdue's home football games, specific away game trips, and occasionally, bowl game travel!
- 2. The "Boiler Beats" operate primarily as a tailgate drumline, entertaining fans in the hours leading up to Purdue's home football games. This ensemble also serves as a training ground for those that desire to continue to improve their skills. Participation in a fall concert ensemble may be required for placement in this group.
- 3. The World's Largest Drum™ is about 10 feet tall, and is a 104-year-old icon of the University! It is operated by a crew of 7+ people, who perform athletic/acrobatic feats with the Drum. The Drum Crew is a subsection of the AAMB Drumline, but they prioritize attitude, physicality, and public relations over percussive technique and drumming ability. If you think you might be interested in the Drum Crew (or just want to see what we're talking about), check out the "Drum Crew" portion of the Purdue Bands and Orchestras website.
- **4. The Drum Majors** are two upperclassmen who have served in the "All-American" Marching Band before and are selected well before Band Camp begins.

This packet is for people interested in auditioning for a spot on either the "All-American" Marching Band Drumline or the "Boiler Beats" Tailgate Drumline. If you are interested in the World's Largest Drum Crew, check out the "Drum Crew" packet. Rookie members are not eligible to be a Drum Major in their first season with the "All-American" Marching Band. When you come to Band Camp, you are auditioning for placement onto a drumline— not specifically the "All-American" Marching Band Drumline or the Beats Drumline. At the end of Band Camp, Dr. Nave, the other faculty, and the student leadership team will set the membership of each drumline selected from those who successfully complete the audition process. At the end of Band Camp, you may be offered a spot on the "All-American" Marching Band Drumline, the "Boiler Beats" Tailgate Drumline, and/or be placed into one of our indoor ensembles.

In addition to the athletic bands, we have a large number of concert ensembles that meet year-round; and we even offer a percussion ensemble in the Spring! You can find information about these ensembles on the <a href="Purdue Bands and Orchestras website">Purdue Bands and Orchestras website</a>. You can participate in these ensembles while you are on a drumline, or instead of being on a drumline.

This packet contains all the information you need to prepare yourself for Band Camp. The Purdue Bands and Orchestras website is a great resource and can get any additional questions you may have answered. Band Camp is a lot of work. If you earn a spot on one of the drumlines, it will require an incredible amount of discipline and practice each day during the season. We guarantee, there's nothing quite like standing on the 50-yard line in a jam-packed Ross-Ade and hitting the downbeat of *Hail, Purdue!* for the first time.

#### Boiler Up, Hammer Down, and we can't wait to see you this August!

#### Sincerely,

#### Dr. Pamela J. Nave

Associate Professor of Bands, Purdue University Drumline Instructor, Purdue University

#### **Corbin Richardson**

Section Leader, "All-American" Marching Band Drumline Snare Segment Leader, "All-American" Marching Band Drumline

## Introduction from the Cymbal Segment Leaders

Welcome to the Purdue Cymbal Line packet! We are so excited that you are considering auditioning for the Purdue University Drumline (PUDL). Allow us to introduce ourselves and tell you a bit about our section.

Hello everyone! My name is MJ Smith and I am the Cymbal Segment Leader (1) for the 2025-26 season. I am a senior studying Horticulture with a concentration in Plant Science. I have been in marching band since middle school and this will be my fourth year playing cymbals (one year on Boiler Beats and now three years on the AAMB). Outside of band I love to spend time in the garden, read some books, and spend time with my loved ones. I am super excited to meet you all, have some fun, and play some groovy music!

Hi! My name is Cadance Rose and I am the Assistant Cymbal Segment Leader (10) for the 2025-26 season. I am a sophomore studying Psychology with a minor in Human Development and Family Sciences. I marched in my highschool's drumline for 5 years and this will be my second year as a part of the AAMB. Outside of the band, I enjoy reading (usually nonfiction/fantasy) and getting food with my friends. I am super excited to meet you all and to perform with an awesome line!

The cymbal line has a storied history at Purdue and has maintained its traditional, militaristic technique for decades. Our primary goal is to entertain our fans with incredible visuals and musical skill. We may also do the occasional goofy dance or two. If you're looking to make people smile, gasp, and knock their socks off, then you'll fit right in with the cymbal line.

To prepare for your audition and band camp, start practicing the exercises in this packet and preparing yourself physically to carry cymbals. Your audition will consist of playing two rudiments and the audition cadence released on July 1. Additionally, warm ups, fight songs, and cadences will be the main focus of band camp and the best way to set yourself up for success is to memorize them. We find that writing out counts, clapping or playing along to recordings (that can be found in the Drumline section of the Purdue Bands and Orchestras website or on YouTube), and repetition are the best tools for memorization, but feel free to experiment and find what works for you. As for building physical strength, holding cymbals up at "Crash Position" (defined on page 17) and playing for as long as you can without pulling into your body to rest is recommended. This can be supplemented with upper-back, bicep, tricep, and core exercises (especially push-ups since they hit all these areas). Forte Athletics has some wonderful cymbal-specific exercise videos on YouTube if you want to check those out. Proper playing technique involves the cymbals out away from our bodies for extended periods of time. Pregame and half-time shows last about 10 minutes and parades can be even longer, so we want you to be ready! Make sure to stretch, hydrate, and take care of your body before, during, and after each day of band camp. Your well-being is our number one priority. Finally, shake off the nerves and have fun. The audition process is stressful, but it can also be where you meet a ton of friends and make lifelong memories.

Best of luck and feel free to reach out to either of us with any questions. We are so excited to work with you at Tech Weekend in July and Band Camp this August!

Sincerely,

MJ Smith (1)

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Cadance Rose (10)

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PUDL Audition Packet Dr. Nave

## Dr. Nave and her Philosophy of Percussion Education

It is a good idea to generally know who Dr. Nave is (by reading her bio), but it is especially important to know about her Philosophy of Percussion Education before arriving at Tech Weekend or Band Camp.

#### **About Dr. Nave**

DR. PAMELA J. NAVE serves as Purdue Bands' percussion instructor and its Associate Professor of Bands and Orchestras. She formerly served on the band's faculty at Ball State University, where she completed a Bachelor of Science Degree in Percussion Performance. Following her undergrad degree, Dr. Nave opened a percussion studio in Indianapolis, Indiana for three years. She then went back to Ball State as a Graduate Assistant and received two more degrees: one in Music Education and one in Percussion Performance. Dr. Nave completed her Doctorate of Musical Arts degree at The Ohio State University. At OSU, she won the graduate concerto competition as a marimba soloist, adding to a long list of academic honors that includes being a two-time recipient of BSU's James L. Lane Percussion Award and the winner of BSU's Concerto Competition. Also at OSU, Dr. Nave was awarded the Graduate Associate Teaching Award, which is only given to ten graduate students out of the 2600 graduate students in each class. Between degrees, Nave, a member of Pi Kappa Lambda, performed as a freelance percussionist in Orchestras and Community Concert Bands throughout Indiana.

She began her career with Purdue University Bands and Orchestras in 1999, and has been a figurehead in the department and the Big Ten ever since. In 2008, she was appointed Director of "All State Marimba and Percussion Ensemble" for the Indiana Music Educators National Conference, and is a member of the Percussive Arts Society. To this date, she remains the only female percussion director in D1 athletics. Dr. Nave's current duties with the Purdue University Bands and Orchestras Department include Director of all Percussion Studies (a studio of roughly 110 percussion students), Assistant Director of the Marching Band, Drumline Instructor, Operations Advisor, and private percussion instructor. As of June 2020, Dr. Nave also serves as the treasurer of Purdue's chapter of Pi Kappa Pi, an academic honors fraternity on campus. She received the



Helen B. Schleman Gold Medallion Award in 2025 for her significant contribution to the advancement of women students and women's issues. She is very dedicated to her wife, Courtney, her three children, Parker, John, and Charlotte, their cats Casper and Mabel Applesauce, and their dogs Finnstur and Gustov Holst Gus Gus Spartacus D.R. Nave.

PUDL Audition Packet Dr. Nave

#### Dr. Nave's Philosophy of Percussion Education

My ideal thought of percussion education lies with a totalization philosophy in percussion. The student will have a firm foundation in technique on all instruments — simultaneously, they may pursue higher levels of musicianship on a single instrument.

A totalization approach offers students the opportunity to emphasize one instrument while still covering traditional percussion instruments. If carefully designed and implemented, this may prove to be an effective approach to the curriculum for the 21st century. Several traditional areas of percussion need to remain in all undergraduate curricula. I believe that the study of traditional percussion instruments such as snare drum, cymbals, keyboard instruments, timpani, etc., and the "auxiliary instruments" should be included in every undergraduate curriculum. Percussionists at Purdue University should be expected to possess basic technique and knowledge of the literature on these instruments. The mastery of these instruments is important not only to promote percussionists' professional knowledge, but also because all areas of percussion relate to one another as "one big matrix" (interview with Michael Udow, 2001). To be a true percussionist, I believe it is important to have an understanding and appreciation of all areas of percussion.

I also believe that students should have a basic knowledge of Latin and African instruments and styles. These instruments and styles are written into contemporary music, ranging from percussion ensembles to orchestral works, from concert band music to drum and bugle corps arrangements — so a competent percussionist should know how to handle them. Additionally, a percussionist playing in a large ensemble or in musical theatre may encounter contemporary orchestral and concert band composers such as David Gillingham, Leonard Bernstein, George Gershwin, Frank Ticheli, and Libby Larson. These composers expect percussionists in the ensemble will be capable of playing music for any percussion instrument. The average professional percussionist will face these situations at some point in their career and must have the training to handle them.

I believe that how soon and the degree to which a student should specialize is different for every student. If a student enters my percussion studio and cannot read keyboard music, they will study xylophone and marimba until they gain basic reading competency technique, regardless of their wishes for specialization, for the reasons mentioned in the paragraph above. On the contrary, if a student enters my studio and proves their competency in the basic areas of percussion, I will allow them to emphasize a favorite instrument. I have found that students have more motivation if they are allowed a measure of control in choosing the direction of their education, whether this means selecting which instrument to emphasize or which solo to play on the instrument I have dictated. In general, undergraduates will spend their first year or two developing their proficiency in the basics. But when the case arises that a talented underclassman wants to focus on one instrument, I feel ethically obligated to provide the opportunity for him or her to do so, with the support of my knowledge and teaching skills.

Regardless of what talent you enter the music/band program with, you will leave Purdue University with knowledge regarding several facets of the percussion world. My hope is that you, as a percussionist, may continue your playing and performing within the communities in which you live.

#### **Tech Weekend 2025 Schedule**

This schedule is subject to change - look for updates on Slack!

#### Saturday, July 12

- 8:00 am Check in at Shreve Hall
- 9:00 am Student Leaders distribute instruments/stands/carriers
- 10:00 am Marching Basics
- **12:00 pm** Lunch
- 1:00 pm Warm-ups (basic technique)
- 3:30 pm Audition Music/Technique
- 5:30 pm Dinner
- 6:30 pm Music/Technique
- 8:00 pm Student-guided tour of campus
- 9:30 pm Movie/snacks/relax

#### Sunday, July 13

- 7:30 am Wake up call/showers
- 8:00 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am Marching Basics
- 11:00 am Music/Technique
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm Audition Music
- 3:00 pm Closing Discussion
- 3:30 pm Return Equipment
- 4:00 pm Tech Weekend ends

#### What should I bring to Tech Weekend?

- 2 days of athletic clothes (it will be hot, and you will be sweating)
- Tennis shoes (NO sandals or open-toed shoes. We will be marching!)
- Sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, etc.
- Hard copies of our warm-ups, cadences, and the 2025-2026 audition music (we recommend keeping it in a binder with page protectors and page clips)
- Reusable water bottle (we have water and ice

   just bring a bottle!)
- Earplugs
- Sticks (if you don't have any, we have plenty here)
- Practice pad (if you have/want one)
- Cymbal Sleeves (if applicable; we have some)
- Toiletries/shower shoes
- A FANTASTIC ATTITUDE!

#### Can I drive myself to Tech Weekend?

Absolutely! But we ask that all students spend the weekend in the dorms with the upperclassmen/ student leaders, so don't plan on driving around during Tech Weekend! Parking will be available in the <u>University Street Parking Garage</u> and around Shreve Hall. These lots are 100% free to the public on weekends and after 5:00 pm on weekdays.

#### **Rooming Information**

The rooms provided to us for the weekend are either doubles or a single - you take your pick when registering! Each bed includes a pillow, sheets, and a blanket, and showers are available. You have the option to choose a roommate if you know who you want to room with - however, there is nothing to worry about if you don't know anyone! You'll be paired with a fellow musician and student here at Purdue - a great way to make a new friend and start your college expierence off on the right foot! (the left foot actually - we are a marching band after all!)

## Playing Auditions: August 17, 2025

Drumline music auditions will take place on the Sunday before Band Camp in the Hagle Hall Percussion Studio (Rm 108). Here is a tentative schedule for the day (actual schedule will be available closer to audition day).

9:00am	Mandatory Welcome Session for ALL rookies in Elliot Hall of Music
10:00am - 12:00pm	Block 1 of auditions in Rm 108.
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Break for lunch
12:00pm	Band Camp registration opens in the lobby of Elliott.
	(Everyone must do this, even if they have already auditioned.)
1:00pm - 3:30pm	Block 2 of auditions in Rm. 108.
3:30pm - 4:00pm	Break
4:00pm - 6:30pm	Block 3 of auditions in Rm 108.
6:30pm - 9:00pm	Open auditions for special cases/circumstances. You cannot sign up for this
	time slot in advance.

#### How do I sign up for an audition block?

Audition sign-ups will be sent out by email and in the Purdue Drumline Slack workspace as we approach the audition date. If you are interested in auditioning, make sure you've contacted your segment leader!

#### What if I mess up?/Can I audition on multiple instruments?

Sunday's playing auditions are only the first step of the week-long audition process. The faculty and student leadership will initially order players by how successful their Sunday auditions are, but those spots can (and will) change dramatically throughout the week as candidates improve in marching/playing. Long story short: don't worry if you mess up your Sunday audition! Students are rarely dismissed from Band Camp after Sunday auditions. Instead, Dr. Nave *may* ask you to re-audition on a different instrument. We encourage candidates to arrive with the goal of earning a spot on one of the drumlines, instead of fixating on playing a particular instrument on a particular drumline.

With that in mind, you can audition on as many instruments as you like (and you may also be asked to switch instruments during Sunday auditions or Band Camp). If you are planning on auditioning for multiple instruments, be sure to register for **one audition spot for each instrument.** 

#### What does a Sunday audition consist of?

You will sign up for an audition slot via the PUDL Slack workspace (reach out to Corbin if you have not been added). The Student Leadership team will do their best to keep the day running smoothly, so that everyone can audition during the block in which they signed up. Keep in mind that the schedule is an outline of the day; we may ask you to audition a bit earlier or later in the day.

Every audition will consist of two parts:

- Rudiments: You will be asked to play two rudiments from the 40 Essential, which will be selected on the spot. You are allowed to bring you own copy of the rudiments list, which can be found in the music section of this packet. During the audition, both rudiments should be played "slow/fast/slow" or "soft/loud/soft". If you are modulating tempo, start dramatically slow (40bpm), then gradually build up speed to your max tempo. Then gradually slow down again to the tempo at which you started. If you are modulating dynamics, start dramitically soft (pianissimo), then gradually build in volume to your max dynamic level. Then gradually reduce volume to where you started. The tempo will remain constant if you are modulating dynamics, and the dynamic will remain constant if you are modulating tempo. You should have complete control of the sticks at all times.
- 2. Audition: The audition cadence for this year will be released on July 1st, 2025, and will be available in the music section of this packet. This will be played for Dr. Nave and another evaluator. You are allowed to bring your own copy of the music.

#### How many spots are available?

We have the option to take up to two full-size drumlines of 36 members each (11 snares, 7 guads, 7 basses, and 11 cymbals). At the start of Band Camp, only nine people have a reserved spot on the "All-American" Marching Band Drumline: the student leader(s) on each instrument, including the World's Largest Drum Crew. Every other spot (across both drumlines) will be filled based on students' performance in auditions and throughout Band Camp. Decisions will be based on candidates' playing ability, marching, and teachability. Seniority does not factor into our auditioning process, meaning it is possible for returning veterans to not make the line. The membership of both drumlines is up to the discretion of Dr. Nave and the other faculty members, with input from the student leadership team. Please note that while there are 36 spots available as per the instrumentation listed above, Dr. Nave and the other faculty will only offer membership to those that earn placement (membership will not be given just to fill a spot).

#### Do you have any tips for preparing/practicing?

- **BE PREPARED:** Be able to perform the audition excerpt completely at a comfortable and steady tempo. Learn it slowly and work measure-by-measure to ensure accuracy, and then build up speed. Constantly check your technique, and be sure not to overlook the rudiments - be detailed with them and apply them to the music in this packet!
- 2. PRACTICE WITH THE RIGHT STICKS: We will be using Vic Firth sticks this season, so if you're able to get your hands on the appropriate pair this summer, start practicing with them before Tech Weekend/Band Camp! If you make either drumline, we will supply you with sticks to last throughout the season.
- 3. MEMORIZE ALL OF THE MUSIC IN THIS PACKET: It is expected that you have all of the music in this packet memorized at the start of Band Camp. Start getting the warmups, cadences, and Pregame music out of the way as soon as possible so you can focus on the audition excerpt once it is released in July!
- 4. CHECK OUT THE TECHNIQUE SECTION: Every drumline handles playing and marching technique a little differently. While Dr. Nave and the Student Leaders won't expect rookies to have our technique mastered prior to Band Camp, try to get a head start by checking out the Technique section in this packet. 2025-2026

**5. REFLECT ON YOUR PROFESSIONALISM:** Professionalism is a factor during auditions. Our faculty and student leadership team members want to work and perform with people who are positive, mature, and willing to cooperate with their fellow drummers and band members!

- **6. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AUDITION DAY:** On audition day, the drum room will be filled with rookie and veteran drummers who are all auditioning for the Purdue Drumline! Take this time to start getting to know everyone, practicing with others, and learning from veterans/student leaders! This is a great opportunity to get your lingering questions answered, or to work with other drummers going through the same process you are!
- **7. HAVE FUN:** Both drumlines are full of energetic, upbeat drummers who want to work and perform with other people who love drumming! This positive, high energy is precisely what helps motivate the football team, the crowd, and all who watch either drumline perform!

## Band Camp: August 17-23, 2025

Sunday auditions are important, but so is the week of Band Camp that comes after! It will be an intensive week, so come prepared to push yourself both physically and mentally, but also be sure to have fun drumming and getting to know the other members of the band! Band Camp auditions consist of three distinct portions: **playing**, marching, and **professionalism**.

#### So what happens during Band Camp?

Band Camp is run by the "All-American" Marching Band staff and faculty, with the student leadership team guiding their individual sections. Each of your student leaders will help you develop your marching and playing technique, but they will also be evaluating you on your skill and improvement throughout the week. Keep in mind that Band Camp emphasizes both marching and playing. You will play all of the music included in this packet, especially cadences, during the week. **Have them all memorized** before showing up!

As we are just one of many sections that comprise the "All-American" Marching Band, we follow the same itinerary as the rest of the band. It is also important that you meet and get to know the rest of the "All-American" Marching Band. When this year's itinerary for Band Camp is posted, you will be able to find it on the <a href="Purdue">Purdue</a> Bands and Orchestras website.



#### What exactly does "professionalism" mean?

While playing and marching are primary components evaluated during the audition process, your professional-ism and teachability will go a long way! Since the "All-American" Marching Band's primary goal is to entertain, a goal of our audition process is to find positive, energetic people that will help us engage with our audience! Playing ability will not outweigh a negative personality. The faculty of the "All-American" Marching Band will not put up with poor attitudes, even from excellent players. If you refuse to learn, if you're difficult to work with or immature, your chances of securing and maintaining a spot in the "All-American" Marching Band Drumline or "Boiler Beats" Tailgate Drumline will be significantly affected. Be sure you show up to Band Camp excited, willing to learn/grow, and as a generally positive influence to those around you!

# The "All-American" Marching Band does not tolerate poor behavior or bad attitudes. No exceptions.

#### How can I prepare my body physically?

Band Camp, rehearsals and game days are all physically strenuous - health and wellness are a crucial element of success for everyone in the "All-American" Marching Band. Before every rehearsal and performance, the student leadership team will lead the line in performing both musical and physical warm-ups. Warm-ups are especially important on game days, since we're playing all day long. Be sure throughout your preparation for Band Camp, ensure you focus on your health and well-being!

It's highly recommended that you spend part of your preparation time being physically active. Running, walking, weight-lifting, biking, swimming, home workouts, yoga - these are all great ways to improve or maintain your physical health! Be sure to do so safely - stretch before you work out and don't over-exert yourself. Get plenty of rest, eat healthy, and take breaks and rest days when you need to! Certainly reach out to any member of the SL team if you questions about physical health!

#### When are results announced?

On the Thursday morning of Band Camp, the student leadership team and Dr. Nave will meet with each candidate one-on-one to let them know if they will be offered placement in the "All-American" Marching Band, the "Boiler Beats" Tailgate Drumline, and/or an indoor ensemble. No matter which ensemble you are selected for, the student leadership team are happy to share feedback as to the decision if you wish. You can always set up a meeting with Dr. Nave individually to talk more in-depth about her decision.

If you don't make one of the drumlines this year, don't be a stranger! Many past members (including some individuals that are on our Student Leadership team this year!) did not make the "All-American" Marching Band in their first year auditioning! No matter what, there is a place for you in the Purdue Percussion program, and everyone is encouraged to stick with the program, improve throughout the year, and come back stronger than ever next season!

#### How do I sign up for Band Camp?

You can sign up for Band Camp on the <u>Purdue Bands and Orchestras</u> website once sign-ups become available. Be sure to follow us on social media to make sure you stay informed when audition material is posted and sign-ups go live!

#### What do I need to bring to Band Camp?

- Athletic clothes (it will be hot and you will be sweating)
- Tennis shoes (we do not allow sandals or open-toed shoes during rehearsals)
- Sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, etc.
- All of the music in this packet (we recommend keeping it in a binder with page protectors and page clips)
- Practice pad (if you have/want one)
- Earplugs

- Water bottle (we have water and ice just bring a bottle!)
- Sticks (if you don't have any, we have plenty here)
- Cymbal Sleeves (if applicable; we have some)
- Money for meals throughout the week. Dining court meal plans will not be active until the end of the week.
- A FANTASTIC ATTITUDE!

## Some Final Thoughts on Auditions

We know the audition process can be stressful, but if you come to Band Camp fully prepared and demonstrate your competency, you put yourself in the best position to earn placement in either the "All-American" Marching Band or the "Boiler Beats" Tailgate Drumline. Drumming is drumming, no matter which group you end up in, so enjoy the opportunity while you have it!

If you have any questions while preparing, don't hesitate to contact the student leadership and/or Dr. Nave and we'll be happy to help. You can find the necessary contact info at the front of this packet.

Good luck, happy practicing, and we can't wait to see you at auditions!

## Marching Technique

We will spend plenty of time honing marching technique at Band Camp. In the meantime, here's a basic overview of the major concepts. While we don't expect rookies to show up with our technique mastered, this section is designed to help give new members a head start.

Cymbals use both glide-step/crabbing and low-chair (like the AAMB). Which technique we use depends on the particular performance, so it is important for you to understand both of them. Here's a brief explaination of each element of the techniques we use.

#### **Posture/Set Position**

Let's start from the bottom and work up. Balls of the feet are on the set dot or yard line, and the feet are pointed straight ahead, with toes together. The knees are straight, but never locked, and hips are centered directly over feet. The torso provides the "power" for the posture; the core is engaged, the chest is out and the shoulders are pulled back. The back is not only straight, but should also feel extended. Think of a string running through your spine and out the top of your head that's being pulled toward the sky. The head is looking forward and slightly up, so that the chin is parallel to the ground. A good way to test this is with the "L" trick: make an "L" with your thumb and pointer finger, touch the thumb to the bottom of the neck, and push your chin up as far as your pointer finger reaches. Finally, eyes are looking in the same upward direction, not down at the ground.

#### **Marking Time in Glide-Step**

We'll go over the vocal callouts associated with marking time and marching once band camp comes. For now, all you need to know are the basics of the technique: on the "and" between beats, the heel is lifted while the ball of the foot stays on the ground. The clearance between the bottom of the heel and the ground should be several inches, roughly enough to fit a fist. On the beat, the heel comes down to the ground, without shifting the weight or disturbing the posture, and without stomping.

#### **Forward Marching in Glide-Step**

Our forward marching technique is akin to "walking in time." As long as your feet stay in time and move in a straight line (like you're walking in ski tracks, not on a tightrope), and the posture is maintained, you've met most of the requirements for the forward marching technique. Every step hits first with the heel, then rolls through to the toe. Feet cross on the "and"s of beats. When closing, the right foot rolls like normal, then the left foot just glides into its spot on count one.

#### **Backward Marching/Crabbing**

Most aspects of what's outlined above for forward marching are applicable to backward marching. Instead of rolling through steps, the feet are always raised up on their platforms. When crabbing left or right, the front foot should remain on the yardline while the back foot should be slightly behind the yardline. (If you're crabbing left, the right foot is the front foot. If you're crabbing right, the left foot is the front foot.) This requires a slightly altered first step, which we outline in the video. Keeping the feet parallel to each other usually requires more attention when marching backward or crabbing than compared to forward marching, so be mindful of that when practicing your technique.

#### **Forward Marching in Low-Chair**

For the first step, the motion should look like brushing your toes over the top of grass. This helps keep the toes low to the ground and shins/toes perpendicular to the ground at all times. The left foot will lift to the fully extended location with the calf and toes perfectly perpendicular to the ground and the thigh at a 45 degree angle on each "and" beat, and hit the ground again on each count. Once the calf has extended, place toes into the ground first. You should never slam onto your heels. Repeat the motion again for the right foot. This is just a uniform walk in time — don't be too stiff and don't over complicate it. The upper body should not shift side to side or bob up and down.

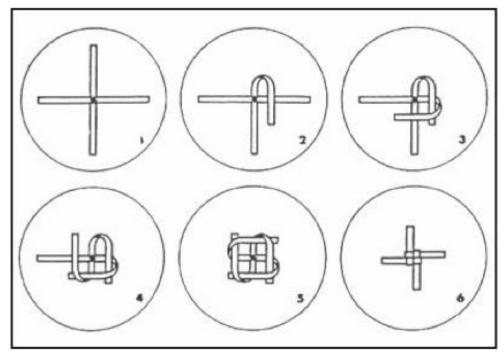


AAMB woodwinds using the low-chair technique. This picture was taken on the "and" count of a beat. You can tell because their heels are up, their shins are perpendicular to the ground, and their knees are out.

You can always email an SL if you still have questions after reading this section of the packet. Most importantly, keep in mind that we will explain all of these concepts in depth during Tech Weekend and Band Camp, so don't stress too much if you're having trouble picking them up on your own.

## Cymbal Playing Technique

#### **Cymbal Knot**



This is how we tie our cymbal knots. Become familiar with doing this fast, and understand how to adjust to your hand size so visuals are easy to do and holding for long periods of time does not hurt your hands.

#### **Cymbal Positions**

Here at Purdue we will utilize 3 main positions: Port and Flat for crashes, and Hi-Hat for certain effect sounds. Warm-ups and Cadences should be learned using Port position, while Pregame should be learned using Port and Flat position.

**Port Position:** To get into this position, hold your arms out in front of you but pointing down at about a 45 degree angle with the cymbals vertical. Then, bend your elbows to about a 45 degree angle, while aligning the tops of the cymbals with your eyes. Elbows should be pushed out slightly to create a strong frame. Cymbals should be about an inch apart and slightly offset from each other with the right cymbal about half an inch higher than the left.

**Flat Position:** To get into this position, hold your arms out in front of you parallel to the ground with your cymbals at a 45 degree angle (pointing from your left shoulder to your right hip. Elbows should be pushed out slightly to create a strong frame. Ensure your wrist is in line with your forearm (there should be a straight line from your elbow through your middle finger). Cymbals should be about an inch apart and slightly offset from each other with the right cymbal about half an inch higher than the left.

**Hi-Hat Position**: To get into this position, your left cymbal will be placed right above your belly button on your body at about a 35 degree angle, with the highest part sitting in your elbow. The right arm will then come on top of the left cymbal. It is important here to keep the cymbals slightly open (about an inch) when not playing, staying relaxed and do not round your shoulders. When playing here for a long time your left forearm will start to get sore. This gets better with strength and practice.

#### **Cymbal Sounds**

While executing any of these sounds (excluding hi-hat), make sure your fingers are not resting on the cymbal. This WILL dampen the cymbals and produce a less-effective sound. We do play other sounds and other variations of these sounds, but they are less common and/or require less practice, so they will be taught at a later date.

**Crashes:** With most crashes, the cymbals will connect offset by about 1". While following through, there is a second point of contact at the opposite end of the cymbals. This flam should flow together in such a way that you do not hear two separate attacks. The entirety of this process should be considered as one motion creating one sound. If you approach the flam with too much force or velocity, or if you strike the cymbals with poor placement, you're most likely going to get an air pocket. An air pocket happens when you trap air between the two cymbals during the crash and instead of getting vibration and sustain you get a loud "pop" sound. The flam is only one part of the overall approach. When executed properly with the addition of touch and correct velocity, the vibration will create a full, rich sound that grows and flourishes sonically as you finish out the crash.

**A-Tap/Tings:** To begin, set up in the 'A' position of a crash. The edge of the right cymbal will be an inch higher than the left hand, which should be set up slightly lower than what is typical in the up position. There is no prep. The contact point will be about 1" in from the edge and the sound should be on the brighter side of the spectrum.

**Chokes:** Chokes from any position start with creating the sound from another technique, then abruptly dampening it into your body.

• From the Crash Position, this will look like pulling the cymbals into your armpits to create an A shape, with the top of the A pointing up, while using your biceps, forearms, and shoulders to dampen the sound as fast as possible.

**Hi-Hat:** Begin in the Hi-Hat position. Simply press the cymbal on top against the lower cymbal to get a hi-hat sound. Be sure the cymbals are offset slightly to avoid air pockets.

**Slide-Choke/Slushies:** Begin in the Hi-Hat position. On the first note, drop the right cymbal onto the left cymbal while also sliding the right cymbal forward. On the second note, quickly pull the right cymbal back onto the left, creating an air pocket that stops the sound of the slushie as well as the cymbal. This should create a 'sizzle' sound as the two cymbals collide with and rattle against each other through the slide.

**Bell Tap/Pang:** A pang is played in the Hi-Hat position with the left hand at the 45 position and the right hand rotated to sit perfectly perpendicular to the left. The right cymbal will then lift 3 inches away from the bell of the left cymbal and then make contact on the edge of it to produce a pang sound.

PUDL Audition Packet Playing Technique

## **Cymbal Visuals**

There's not enough space in this packet to outline all of the visuals that the cymbal line performs in a season, but the most important visuals are flip ups and flip downs. These two are the foundation of all of the other visuals. Become familiar with doing these from any position.

#### Flip Up

Beginning in the standby position, bring your cymbals to the up position. Between these two positions, you will "flip" your cymbals by pushing your thumbs inwards and allowing your wrists to rotate. A key to this rotation is allowing your hand and the cymbal pad to rotate independently from the cymbal. Make sure that the path your cymbals take is upwards and not outwards. This flip will be used in more than this setting alone, but it is important to understand the basics first.

#### Flip Down

Beginning in the up position, bring your cymbals down to the standby position. Between these two positions, you will again "flip" your cymbals by rotating your thumbs outwards and letting the cymbal "fall off" your hand before rotating your wrist around to catch it in standby. A key to this flip is to start the flip around your waist. To practice this, move your cymbals from the up position to your waist, allowing the cymbals to be perpendicular to your body. This should be a checkpoint in your flip.

PUDL Audition Packet Music

## Music Introduction

Welcome to the music portion of the Purdue Drumline audition packet! Here you will find all of the music you need to audition for the AAMB Drumline and the Boiler Beats Drumline. We play a multitude of music throughout the season: warm-ups, stands tunes, fight songs, exercises, cadences, show-music, drum cheers, and more! This packet covers the basics that you need for auditions and Band Camp, including rudiments, warm-ups, and the cadence cycle (particularly the audition cadence — this year's cadence is "Steamboat Willie"). Keep in mind that while the cadences are important, the warm-ups, exercises, and rudiments outlined in this packet are just as important, so don't forget to work on them too.

The AAMB Drumline learns a new show for every home football game, which could entail anywhere from 1 to 4 weeks of practice. A new show usually has about 3 to 5 pieces of \*masterable\* music with drill that will need to be fully memorized and performance-ready by various short-term deadlines set by Dr. Nave. This means you could be memorizing a new song each day and be expected to perform an entirely new show by the end of one week! The key word is "memorizing": all music will have to be fully memorized by showtime. With that in mind, there won't be time to learn the music in this packet during the season. The better you know the music in this packet before Band Camp, the easier Band Camp and the season will be.



PUDL Audition Packet Practice Tips

# **Cymbal Legend**

This legend includes most (but not all) of the cymbal sounds we use throughout a season. Most importantly, it shows you how each sound will be represented in our music. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the student leadership using the "Contact" page at the front of this packet.

## Cymbal Legend



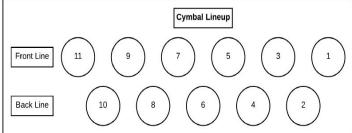


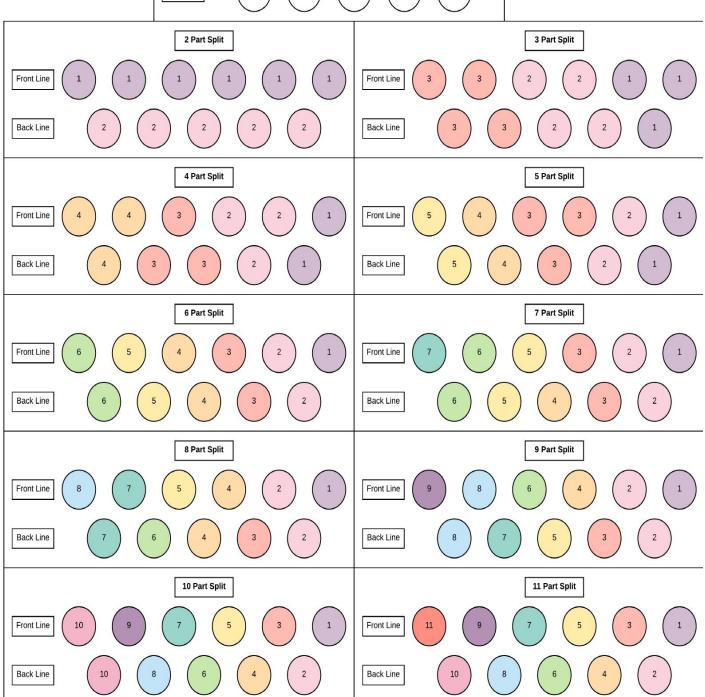




# **Cymbal Splits**

This graphic shows the way splits may be organized amongst the section during a season. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the student leadership using the "Contact" page at the front of this packet.







Be sure to practice every warmup at multiple dynamics and tempos!

**PUDL Audition Packet** 



"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence is not an act, but a habit." - Will Durant

Please note that we use five additional warm-ups: Triplet Diddle, Finger Pyramid, Diddle Breakdown #2, Drag Ruff Diddle (DRD), and Flam Town.

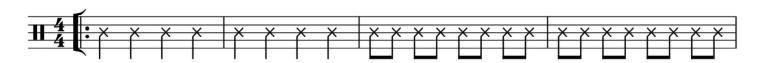
Cymbals do not play during these warm-ups; they are not included in this packet.

PUDL Audition Packet Warmups

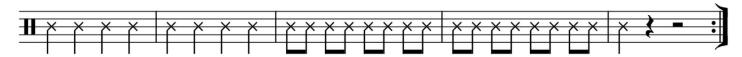
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## Cymbals

#### Purdue Drumline



5



## **Double Beat**

Moriguchi, Ivancsics



## Stick Control

Cymbals Purdue Drumline



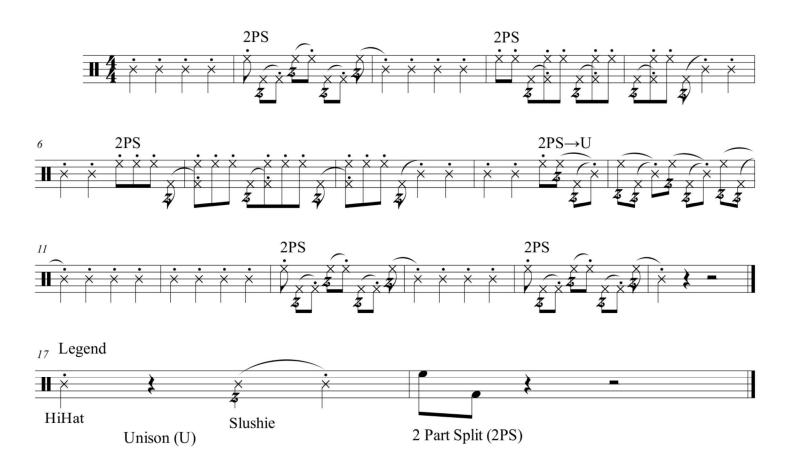






# Paradiddle Grid

Nave



## Scud Flud





Change cymbal positions after each rep

# Cadences

"Practice creates confidence. Confidence empowers you."
- Simone Biles

2025-2026 Audition Cadence: Steamboat Willie

## Steamboat Willie

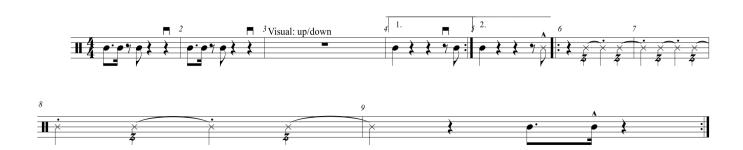
#### 2025 Audition Cadence

2025 Student Leaders



Cymbal Line

# Funky Fives



The rest of this cadence is cymbal visuals that will be taught at Band Camp.

Cymbal Line

## Chunky Monkey

chugga chugga

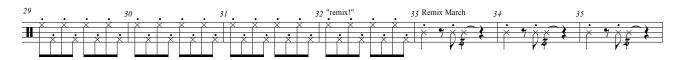
D. Madsen, M. Bowers, J. James RMc









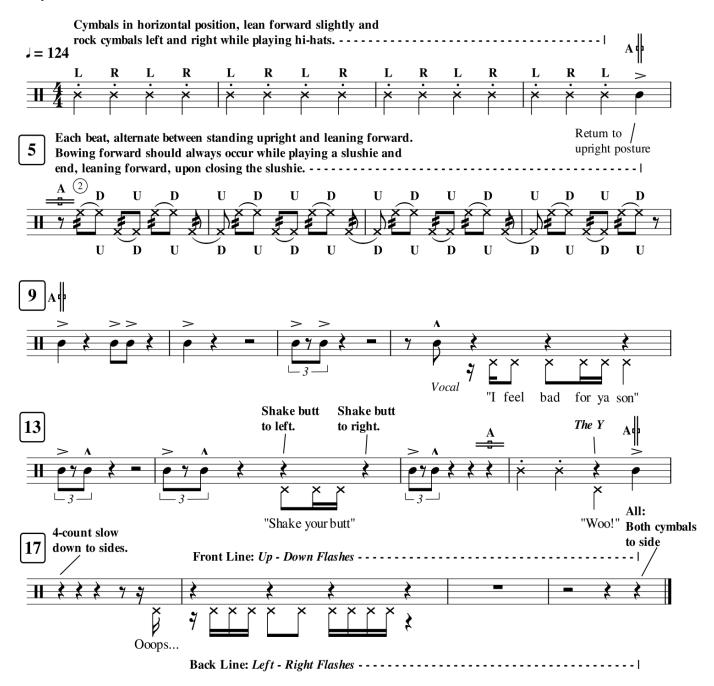




© 2013 Purdue Drumline

#### Cymbals

## **Good Times**



**The Y:** Do the "Y" from Y.M.C.A. Both cymbals, on beat 3, go above the head, with arms at full extension and angled away from vertical at a 45 degree angle. Bring both cymbals down and together from here to crash on 4 in vertical position.

**Up - Down Flashes:** Right cymbal goes in front of the body at hips level, left cymbal goes behind body at hips level. Right cymbal flashes vertically up and down by leaving arm in place and rotating wrist up and down. Upward flashes land on 1 & 3. The final upward flash is on beat 3 of the final measure, where beat 4 brings both cymbals back to rest position to the sides.

**Left - Right Flashes:** Right cymbal goes in front of body at hips level, left cymbal goes in front of body at chest level, directly above right cymbal, with palm facing the ground. Right cymbal performs a back - and - forth sweeping motion to the left and right by leaving arm in place and rotating wrist clockwise and counterclockwise. Cymbal scoops to the left on beats 1 & 3, and sweeps to the right on 2 & 4. The final swing is on beat 3 of the final measure, where beat 4 brings both cymbals back to rest position to the sides.

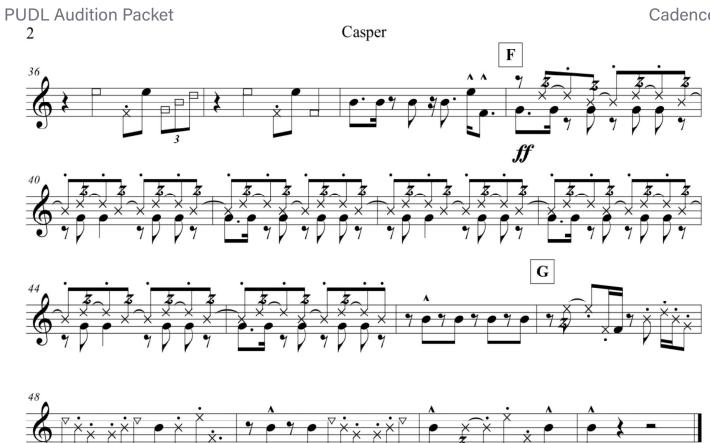
PUDL Audition Packet Cadences

Cymbal Line

# Casper

Bietsch, Keller, Russell, Sherburne





## Cletus K

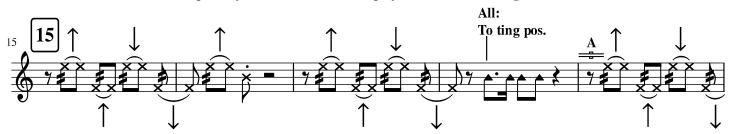


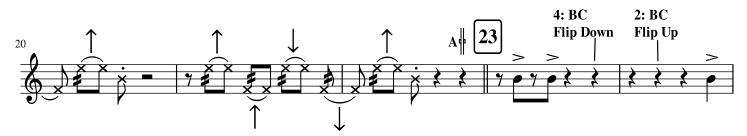
Flash BC forward (palm faces forward), with RC moved up and LC moved down.





Up Arrow: Bend slightly backward, point cymbals upward and play slushie toward the sky. Down Arrow: Bend forward, point cymbals downward and play slushie toward the ground.

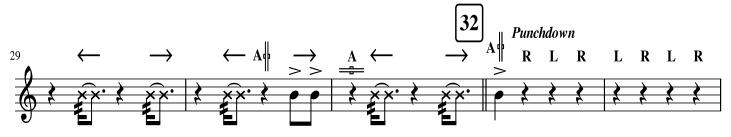


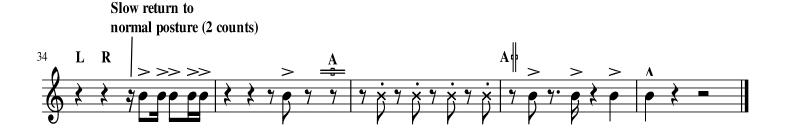


Left Arrow: Turn to the left about 30 degrees and play in that direction. Right Arrow: Turn to the right about 30 degrees and play in that direction.



PUDL Audition Packet Cadences

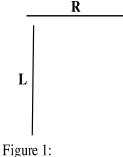




Notes:

**Side Tings:** On beat 2, tilt your head and body to the left and put cymbals into ting position. The right cymbal should be parallel to the ground and the left cymbal should be perpendicular to the ground. (See figure 1, viewed from player's perspective. Lines represent cymbals, letters represent hand placement.) Play the tings on beats 3 and 4 and then return to normal posture on beat 1 of the next measure.

**Punchdown:** After the vertical beat 1 crash on measure 32, begin slowly bending forward (maintain upper body rigidity) while your cymbals alternate "punching" the air directly in front of them, starting with the right cymbal on beat 2. (A punch is simply a movement of the cymbal directly away from you, about 1 foot distance, and back again) Continue punching and bending forward until beat 3 of measure 34 -- at this point you should be almost directly facing the ground. Stop punching (to play the crashes) and slowly lift up, landing back at normal posture on beat 1 of measure 35.



Sideways Ting Position

# Pregame

AND

# Fight Songs

"A band is not proud because it performs well; it performs well because it is proud."
-George Parks

## Pregame Order

#### Pregame consists of ten songs in this order:

- Run On
- 2013 Fanfare
- Wabash Cannonball
- For the Honor of Old Purdue ("Honor")
- Back Home Again
- The Fighting Varsity ("Varsity")
- Hail Purdue PSP
- America the Beautiful
- National Anthem
- and B-Store.

#### **Pregame notes**

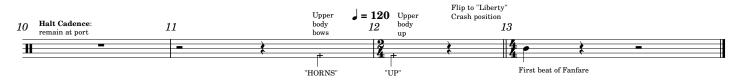
Don't worry about the National Anthem for now - we'll cover it during Band Camp. Cymbals, don't worry about B-Store either as it's entirely visuals that will be taught at Band Camp.

Honor, Varsity, and Hail Purdue are our three fight songs. We frequently play these songs outside of pregame. We also play different versions of these songs. The music in this packet is marked to indicate:

- Long Honor vs Short Honor vs Honor Tag
- Long Varsity vs Short Varsity vs Varsity Tag
- Hail IC (Intro/Chorus) vs Hail PSP (Play/Sing/Play) vs Hail PP (Play/Play) vs Quickie

#### Run-On





#### 2013 Fanfare





### **Wabash Cannonball**











### For the Honor of Old Purdue



## **Back Home Again in Indiana**







#### **Fighting Varsity**

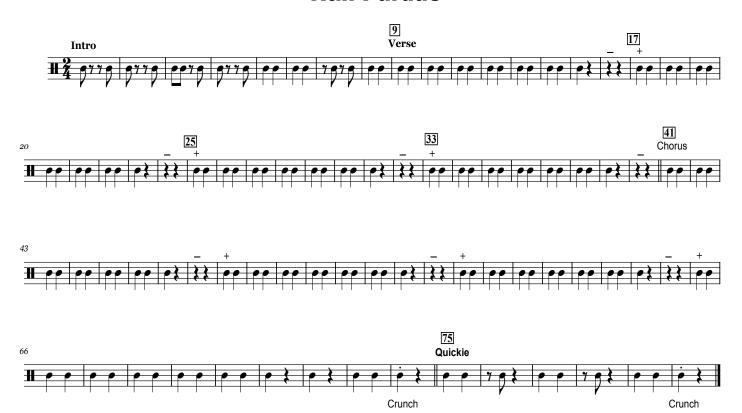




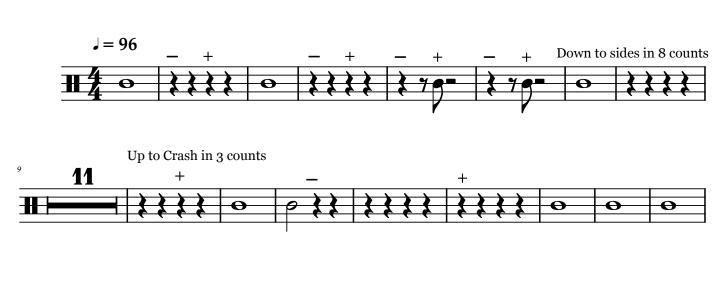




### **Hail Purdue**



## **America the Beautiful**



PUDL Audition Packet Final Thoughts

## Some Final Thoughts

**Congratulations!** You made it through this packet! You've now been exposed to everything you need to know to be fully prepared for Tech Weekend and Band Camp!

If you have any lingering questions, or want to learn even more, check out the PUDL social media sites and the Purdue Bands and Orchestras website. There, you can find detailed videos with advice regarding marching and playing technique. Keep in mind that we do not expect any rookies to have any technique mastered prior to Tech Weekend/Band Camp — but the videos may give you a solid foundation before arriving on campus.

We hope this packet has been informative and helpful for you as you prepare for your first AAMB Drumline Tech Weekend and Band Camp. Best of luck and we can't wait to work with you soon.

Don't be afraid to reach out if you need us!

Sincerely, Dr. Nave, Corbin, and the rest of the 2025-2026 Student Leadership team.

