RIVER CITY RHYTHM

DRUM & BUGLE CORPS

2024 AUDITION PACKET
SYNTHESIZER

Hello, and welcome to River City Rhythm's 2024 auditions!

As the summer season approaches, we are thrilled to extend a warm invitation to all aspiring drum corps talents of every experience level.

Our auditions are not only a gateway to exceptional musical experiences, but also an opportunity to join a close-knit family of passionate performers and instructors. RCR takes pride in the community and culture we have been building together and would love for YOU to come join us!

This packet contains the necessary audition materials and music exercises RCR will be playing throughout the season. Please prepare this material to the best of your ability to receive the best possible experience at our auditions!

Most importantly, please bring a positive attitude and be willing to learn new things!

We eagerly await your audition, and we are ready to witness the energy and enthusiasm you'll bring to River City Rhythm.

Calvin Stromwall
Percussion Caption Head
calvin@rivercityrhythm.org

Technique & Fundamentals
ELECTRONICS & SYNTHESIZER

At all times, stay as relaxed as possible. The rule is **NO TENSION**!

Posture

Playing in the front ensemble is not only about controlling your hands, but is a full-body exercise. Stand with your feet shoulder-width apart, spine straight upright, shoulders relaxed back, & elbows dropped naturally at your sides. Stand back from the keyboard so that your elbow is at your side or slightly back when holding mallets over the lower manual.

All parts of your body should stay loose and relaxed at all times. This will require continual awareness while you play as your body will automatically react to physical challenges by tensing up and trying to power through. Any amount of tension that you allow to regularly appear as you play will not only affect your ability to play but can also lead to serious injury.

Presence & Vibe

Performance is not something you put on with your uniform for shows; you must practice as you perform with every rep to perfect your craft.

We want to exude confidence, professionalism, & class at all times. Behind the board, you will appear confident & in control. Once away from your instrument, you should be humble, inviting, kind, & genuine to all people you come into contact with. You not only represent River City Rhythm, but you represent yourself as an emerging artist in the percussive arts.

While there are some moments where we will define visual performance, in general, we encourage you to tell your own story behind your instrument. The most important part of your visual performance is that it is a genuine expression of what you are feeling as you play.

Ensemble Timing

In any ensemble setting, each performer is responsible to discern pulse & align their playing with other performers. Our primary tool is our ears, both to listen for cues giving an overall pulse & to align micro-level rhythms to your immediate neighbor. Eyes are also a great tool, but will mainly be used as a mechanism to focus our ears. We will only rely solely on our eyes in moments where no audible cue is possible.

While there is a hierarchy of time leading towards the center of the ensemble, every performer has an individual responsibility to listen back to a source of time in addition to listening inward within the section. Each member of the ensemble must have an awareness of all performers around them & behind them to make calculated decisions and seamless adjustments to time.

Technique & Fundamentals
ELECTRONICS & SYNTHESIZER

Synthesizer, Sampler, Guitar

The synthesizer, sampler, and guitar positions are some of the most important positions in the ensemble. We're looking for players that are creative, rhythmically minded, and understand technology at a moderate level. We also want to see players that can problem-solve calmly in high-stress situations. Experience playing piano is a plus but not required.

Bass Guitar

The bass guitar serves a vital role in providing our ensemble with nearly 90% of its lower register sound. For those interested in auditioning for the bass guitar position, we expect you to know all of your scales (major/minor) and to be familiar with how to produce different articulations while playing rhythmically. We consider a player who can imitate the sound of a cello/upright bass, who can slap, and who can slide to be a valuable asset to the full ensemble sound.

Mainstage

We use a program called Mainstage in conjunction with midi controllers for all of the synth and electronic samples. Mainstage works similarly to any other live performance workspace and can be customized for optimal performance within the different pieces we will play.

By assigning a variety of virtual instruments to different patches, we can build a concert in which we can control the whole electronic performance with any given midi controller. If chosen for the sound effects/sampler position within River City Rhythm front ensemble, you will become familiar with creating these instruments as well as general troubleshooting and problem-solving.

Octaves
♩ = 70-140
Play in all 12 major keys

Green Scales
♩ = 90-180
Play in all 12 major keys

Green Beans
♩ = 80-180
Play in all 12 major keys

Sweet Sixteen

♩ = 90-140

Space & Timing

♩ = 60-100

Repeat x4

Up Dog

♩ = 80-120

Alternating Breakdown

♩ = 80-160

Improvise on chord progression

CM7　DbM7　DM7　EbM7　EM7　FM7　GbM7　GM7

GM7　GbM7　FM7　EM7　EbM7　DM7　DbM7　CM7

Lateral Breakdown
♩ = 120-180

Improvise on chord progression