

December 10, 2011

Dear Percussion Ensemble Member,

Congratulations on your acceptance to the 2012 Region II High School Percussion Ensemble. We hope that you will find your experience with the ensemble to be both exciting and musically rewarding. Mr. Yale Snyder, the conductor for this year's ensemble is one of the state's leading percussion educators. Together with Mr. Snyder and your fellow performers, we are hoping that your performance will set the standard for future percussion ensemble performances in years to come.

Percussion ensemble music is, in some ways, different from the parts you may have played in your school band. Percussion ensemble, by its very nature, allows percussionists to play a more prominent role in the music making experience. Percussion ensemble music also calls on performers to make use of their "total percussion" skills. On some pieces you may be called on to play a variety of instruments. Those students who auditioned on mallets will mostly play mallet percussion parts. Occasionally, however, you may be asked to play simple battery percussion parts. Likewise, those who auditioned on battery percussion may also be asked to play simple mallet parts at times.

Please bring the following to all rehearsals:

- 1) Sticks and mallets.
- 2) Small percussion instruments (Tambourine, triangle etc.). We will provide small percussion for the first rehearsal. You may be asked to bring small instruments to subsequent rehearsals
- 3) Pencil
- 4) Music (to be distributed at the first rehearsal)

In addition, you may be asked to bring some additional small percussion instruments (snare drum, tom- tom etc.) on the night of the concert, depending on what is available at the host school. All large percussion instruments will be provided.

The schedule for rehearsals is as follows. **Please note that the times and rehearsal site have been changed from those posted on the CJMEA website The Friday reading rehearsal has been canceled:**

Auditions	Dec. 10	J.P. Stevens H.S.	8:00 a.m.
Rehearsal	Dec. 17 Sat.	Montgomery High School 1016 Route 601 Skillman, NJ 08558-1799	9am-1pm
Rehearsal	Jan. 6 Fri.	Montgomery H.S.	5pm-8pm
Rehearsal	Jan. 7 Sat.	Montgomery H.S.	9am-5pm
Rehearsal	Jan 8 Sun.	Montgomery H.S.	9am-1pm
Concert	Jan. 8 Sun.	Montgomery H.S.	Sound Check- 1:30pm Concert-3pm

The December 17 reading rehearsal will be at Montgomery High School, as will the concert. All January rehearsals prior to the concert, will be held at *Musical Adventures Percussion Studio* 1112 Van Arsdale Drive, Branchburg, NJ 08853. Specific directions from your home can be found by using any of the web directions sites such as Mapquest.com. When entering the studio proceed to the rear of the building and enter through the sliding glass doors. Depending on how the December reading rehearsal goes, we may try to schedule one additional rehearsal on Thursday January 5. We will contact members individually regarding availability if this becomes necessary.

There will be no lunch break except on January 7, so plan to eat something before arriving at rehearsal. Music will be distributed at the first rehearsal. Concert dress is black pants and white shirt. If you have any questions or if I can be of assistance in any way please don't hesitate to e-mail me at [gdmallinson@comcast.net](mailto:gdmallinson@comcast.net) or call me at 908-268-6525. We look forward to seeing you at the first rehearsal.

Gary Mallinson  
Percussion Ensemble Manager