

Welcome to the

MTSU Drumline Auditions

2026

Welcome!! Thank you for your interest in the MTSU Band of Blue Drum line! We take great pride in the Band of Blue and are really looking forward to a terrific year with the 2026 Drum line.

MTSU Drum line has a rich tradition of excellence and the percussion section values hard work and community. We are confident that this experience will be inclusive, a place where you develop lifelong friendships, and will truly cultivate some of your fondest life memories.

We know that everyone has strengths and weaknesses. Show us your strengths and we will help with your weaknesses. Try to stay relaxed, learn, and have fun. Don't hesitate to ask questions. Auditions will be busy, but you will meet some terrific people at MTSU, and we will help you adapt if this is a new environment for you.

All participants should be prepared with solid fundamental technique on the instrument they plan to audition for. Prepare all of the material to the best of your ability for camp. Remember that auditions are much like a job interview. It is highly recommended that the auditionee prepare the exercises (memorized is best) for auditions. Applicants that demonstrate qualities of preparedness, focus, diligence towards technique, rhythmic accuracy, solid tempo control, & a positive attitude, will have the strongest advantage. The audition process will include group and individual assessment. In the individual portion of the audition, applicants might be asked to play with a metronome and/or mark time while performing any or all the audition material.

We play traditional grip in the snare line at MTSU. Students should not try out for snare if they have not played traditional grip prior to the audition.

However, you are welcome to audition for many of the other positions in the MTSU drum line, and encouraged to develop traditional grip through lessons during the year.

Students should know and be able to skillfully manipulate the four stroke types: Full, Down, Tap, Up. The following is a brief description.

- Full Stroke: Starts up, Ends up. Used for forte dynamics and repetitive accents. The beads return to the top of the stroke.
- Down stroke: Starts up, Ends down. This is the transition stroke from an accented note, to an unaccented note, or loud to soft.
- Taps: Repetitive soft or unaccented notes. Soft spectrum of dynamics, approximately 3" off the drum.
- Upstroke: Starts at 3", plays from the 3" tap height, and then ends up. The Upstroke is a transition stroke from soft to loud. Upstrokes are critical to execute and play with efficiency and improved flow.

General Audition recommendations:

- 100 % most important, Be coachable! Make adjustments quickly.
- Bring a 3 ring binder notebook with sheet protectors & a pencil and a carabiner to hold music for when we go to the field.
- Prepare thoroughly. Know the music well, memorized if possible. We will help you with minor technique adjustments, but do your best in preparing the music ahead of time.
- Practice with a metronome and marking time. The feet hand connection is fundamental to being a great player.
- Promptness is crucial. Arrive to rehearsal no later than **15 minutes** before downbeat.
- Encourage, respect & support all members!

The Front Ensemble is a crucial part of the success of the MTSU Percussion Section. While we know that many members do not have access to equipment over the summer, do your best to look over the basic exercises and prepare to the best of your ability. Familiarizing yourself with the exercises on a piano or synth is a good alternative to not having equipment at home. Additionally, for four mallet playing, working on technique and chops using floor exercises is an awesome way to get your hands in shape for the

season. We will be passing out more music throughout camp, so do your best to understand the basic exercises in the packet. Watch videos of great players or great front ensembles from DCI or WGI. We sometimes have spots available for Synth, Drumset and Bass Guitar, so once you arrive at camp, please let us know if you have any experience or interest in those positions.

We look forward to meeting you in a few weeks!

Go Blue!

Julie Davila: juliedavila65@gmail.com

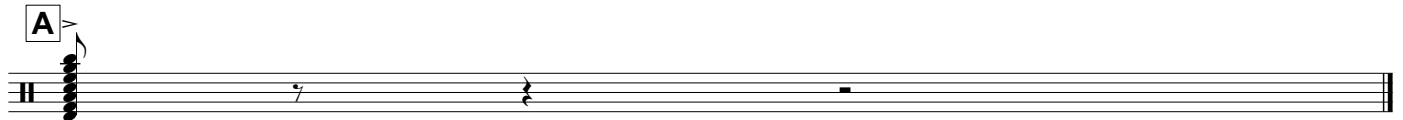
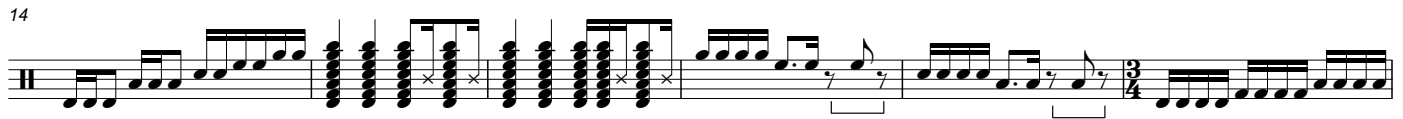
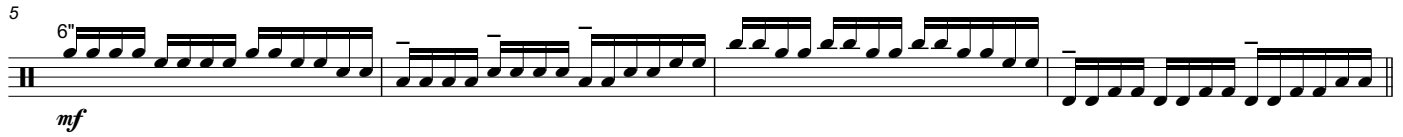
Dr. Brian Mueller: Brian.Mueller@mtsu.edu

Let's go- Stick Control

Basses

Julie Davila

♩ = 112-142



Raider 8's

2026

Basses (7)

Julie Davila

♩ = 150



Middle Tennessee State University - Band of Blue

Basses

♩ = 116

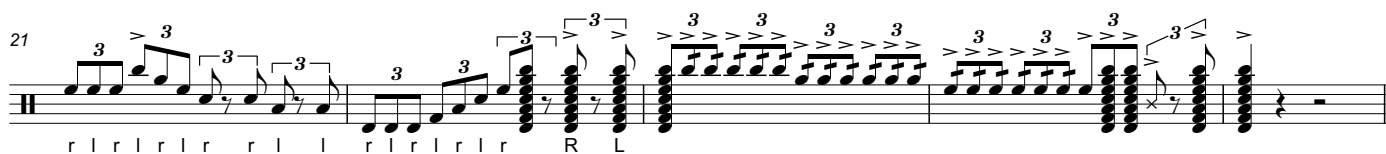
Triplet Rollz

MT 26

Julie Davila

Basses (7)

♩ = 132-170



MT Bass Drum Exercises

1.) 8's 1's, 2's, 3's, 4's



The first staff of exercise 1 contains four measures of eighth-note patterns. The first measure has a beamed eighth-note triplet. The second measure has a beamed eighth-note triplet. The third measure has a beamed eighth-note triplet. The fourth measure has a beamed eighth-note triplet.



The second staff of exercise 1 contains four measures. The first measure has a beamed eighth-note triplet. The second measure has a beamed eighth-note triplet. The third measure has a beamed eighth-note triplet. The fourth measure has a beamed eighth-note triplet. Below the first measure, the letters 'R R L R' are written.

2.) Flow 1's, 2's, 3's, 4's



The first staff of exercise 2 contains four measures of eighth-note patterns. The first measure has a beamed eighth-note triplet. The second measure has a beamed eighth-note triplet. The third measure has a beamed eighth-note triplet. The fourth measure has a beamed eighth-note triplet.



The second staff of exercise 2 contains four measures. The first measure has a beamed eighth-note triplet. The second measure has a beamed eighth-note triplet. The third measure has a beamed eighth-note triplet. The fourth measure has a beamed eighth-note triplet. Above the fourth measure, the word 'single' is written.

3.) One note timing



The first staff of exercise 3 contains four measures. The first measure has a beamed eighth-note triplet. The second measure has a beamed eighth-note triplet. The third measure has a beamed eighth-note triplet. The fourth measure has a beamed eighth-note triplet. Below the first measure, the letters 'R R L L' are written. Below the second measure, the letters 'R L' are written. Below the third measure, the letters 'R L' are written.



The second staff of exercise 3 contains four measures. The first measure has a beamed eighth-note triplet. The second measure has a beamed eighth-note triplet. The third measure has a beamed eighth-note triplet. The fourth measure has a beamed eighth-note triplet.

4a.) Two note timing

Two staves of musical notation for 'Two note timing' exercises. The first staff shows a sequence of eighth notes with foot patterns: R L R L, R L, and R L R L. The second staff shows a sequence of eighth notes with foot patterns: R L R L, R L, R L, and a final measure with a whole note and a rest.

4b.) Timing / flow

r *v* *r* *v*

14 16th Note Timing (1 note)

Two staves of musical notation for 'Timing / flow' exercises. The first staff shows a sequence of 16th notes with foot patterns: R L R L R L R L R R R R, R L R L R L R L, L L, L L, R L R L R L R L R R R R. The second staff shows a sequence of 16th notes with foot patterns: R L R L R L R L, L L, L L, R L R L R R R L R L, L L, R L R L R R R L R L, L L R.

4c).

Fill-ins (Fill each beat of 16ths with these rhythms)

25

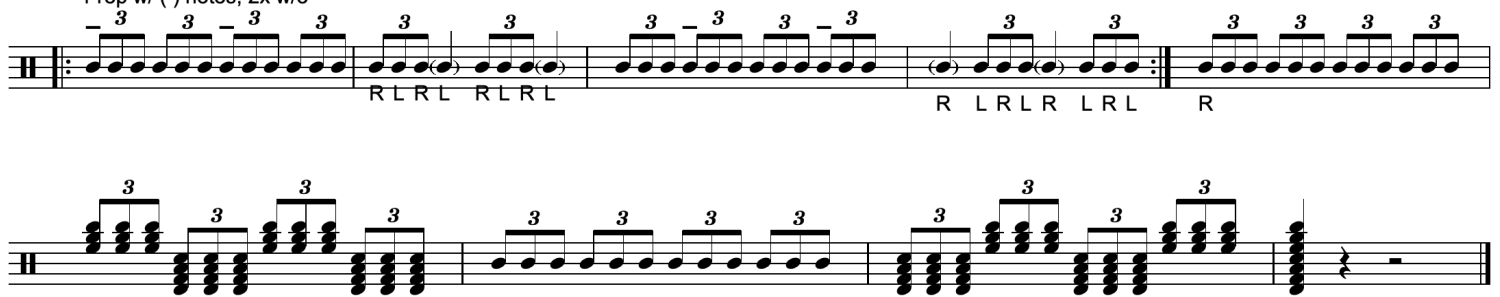
Two staves of musical notation for 'Fill-ins' exercises. The first staff shows a sequence of 16th notes with foot patterns: R L R, R L L, R R L, L R L, R L, L R. The second staff shows a sequence of 16th notes with foot patterns: R L, R L, R R, L L, R, L, R, L.

4.) Gallop battery ex.

* Basses use first 7 bars of 4c, add a 16 note mp check at the top.

5.) Triplets

1 rep w/ () notes, 2x w/o



7.) Triplet Timing

Triplet Timing (1 Note)

Variations: A. 2-height (accent every downbeat) B. Off the left C. 2-height off the left



Push & Shove

Basses

J.Davila

♩ = 110-142

mf

5 1.

7 2.

9 3.

11 4.

R L R R R L

R L L R L L R L L

Raider Walk (short) 18'

Julie Davila

Basses

118

3 MT Chant

who!

who!

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

f

f *mf*

f *mf*

mp *f* *mf* *FF*

R R L L r r L L

R L

R R

L L R R L L r r L L

R

f *mf*

R R

I I

R R L R L R L

R

f

R L R

R

R

R

Run 4 Your Money 26

Basses

J.Davila

♩ = 110-136

unison

6

9

muted

ff

The Vibe

Accent / Tap / 3's

Basses

J.Davila

♩ = 150

sometimes unison, other times other drums on command

