

INFINITY- PROSPECTIVE MEMBER BASIC INFORMATION:

All prospective auditionees (and clinic attendees) should prepare all exercises in the attached packets here on the website. The music and visual staff want to emphasize the importance for those auditioning for the battery, of being able to play the exercises on the move. This entails not only basic marching skills, but the ability to perform basic dance sequences while playing.

Please understand that our performers do a great deal of high velocity movement at extreme tempos ($1/4 = 220+$), and dance/body-work throughout much of the show. This will entail you the performer forgetting any pre-conceptions of what you "can" or "can't" do with drums on. If you need examples of which I speak please refer to video of the top three ensembles from our World Class any of the past few years.

Front ensemble players (as well as battery): Please focus on the content not the "how". We're not going to spend an excessive amount of time discussing inane nuances of technique. Sound production and performance consistency will be what Jared, and Justin look for. Understand, we have no desire to reinvent the wheel for you as players, but rather to arrive at reasonable program that is comfortable for all and requires the least amount of adjustment while providing maximum return for the ensemble's membership.

* This is particularly important for the battery players to remember as the staff does not have the time, nor will we select players who have a penchant for over-analyzing "how" we "approach" playing rather than just focusing on the examples set by Mike, Mustafa, Josh, Anish, and Obed. Please don't waste anyone's time telling the staff how "you did it" at such and such drum corps/college line, whatever. Ok? WE THANK YOU IN ADVANCE!

Regarding Drum Corps: We encourage our membership to do both INFINITY and a DCI line. Rest assured, we won't ask you to choose between indoor and drum corps. Quite the opposite, we've had a great deal of success working with corps such as: Boston/Teal Sound/Crown/Glassmen/Blue Devils over the past five years in sharing members and staff. Therefore, all we ask of you is to communicate with us as to the what/when/where of your corps camps, and we'll do the best we can to accommodate you the member. Of course, abuse of this/excessive neglect of your INFINITY responsibilities (beyond that which we've agreed upon in advance) will preclude you from being involved in our program. Shouldn't be a problem if all parties do their due diligence. (Also, if you're afraid you can't pay for both, don't give up before investigating a few things with us regarding dues. We're working on possible ways to get some individual sponsorship help/work for those of you who might be strapped due to membership in both corps' and indoor.)

As to rehearsals/attendance:

We have a permanent home at Oviedo High School for both for our equipment/trailer, and for ensemble rehearsals with alternate/backup rehearsal options (in the event of school conflicts at Wekiva High School, and John Campese's UCF/Research Park Office Building. (See the address/Google Map Links here on the site). We schedule weekly rehearsals as of the first week of January (*we'll have bi-weekly rehearsals in November and December*) that begin at 7:00pm on Friday nights running until 1am, and returning for rehearsal Saturday afternoon beginning at noon and continuing until 1am with an hour dinner break from 5pm-6pm.

*The start times are the downbeat of rehearsal activities, NOT THE START OF SETUP. Therefore, setup would need to begin about a half hour earlier and the trailer will usually be there/open/ready to be unloaded at such time. Additionally the end of rehearsals would be the cessation of actual practice, meaning that we'd need about 30 minutes to put away gear etc actually clear out of Oviedo by about 1:30am. With the exception of the last few weeks of the season, and the weekends prior to the Nashville, or Orlando Regionals, we will not have Sunday rehearsals so your free to schedule work, catch up on school assignments etc. Another benefit of this approach is it allows us to avoid conflicts with church by for the most part avoiding Sunday's on the whole. Also makes it easier on our members who come from out of town (Tallahassee/Tampa/G'ville/Ocala etc) to participate in the ensemble.

*While I know these times might sound extremely late for those of you just coming from a high school program, they are commonplace amongst our competitors in the World Class units (Mystique rehearses till 3 in the morning and beyond sometimes) and they allow us to avoid most of your other school obligations, and keep at least a portion of your weekend days free for jobs, school studies and leisure activities (or hopefully, sub-sectionals based on your own initiative!)

Our goals, regarding rehearsal/membership education, as a staff are two-fold:

A.) Not to waste your (or our) time with excessive rehearsals with a great deal of downtime. Quality not Quantity is the motto! The staff of INFINITY work diligently to prepare show design, music and technique study in an efficient manner. We only ask that our membership be flexible, prepared with the assigned materials, and read the weekly planners emailed out by our caption heads (Dave Catogni/Visual, Mike Marino/Music) and myself, on each Thursday of the season (November-April) prior to a rehearsal or show weekend. To borrow from our webmaster and consultant Rich Viano: "Plan Your Work & Work Your Plan!"

B.) To always provide a full instructional staff at every rehearsal so as to best provide you the member with quality instruction/educational content. Neither you, nor the ensemble benefit without our talented staff on hand with you in each session. Therefore, due to the scheduling requirements of some of our staff's performance commitments at theme parks etc., we have to plan accordingly: We generally put visual and sub-sectionals first on Saturdays so that our full music staff can be in for ensemble music and full ensemble runs on Saturday evenings. Friday nights are sometimes Ralph & David's opportunity to introduce new visual components, with Lee, and Jared's music needs taking precedent at other times. Most of the core rehearsal sessions are run by our technicians: Justin, with the pit, and Mustafa, Josh, Anish and Obed with the battery.

*Please understand that show weekends (FFCC or WGI) will retain this rehearsal schedule somewhat (based on our performance slots/location of the show etc), but we will ALWAYS Report to Oviedo Saturday morning prior to the show (time again to be determined by our report time at a show seeing as most, other than West Palm, are fairly local), and have rehearsal segment reviewing the show for that day.

It should be apparent we've put a great deal of thought (and learned from past experiences through trial and error) into trying to provide the most enjoyable/manageable experience for our membership. We DON'T WANT TO BURN YOU

OR OURSELVES OUT! The only goals that really matter: Did you have fun throughout the process? Did you feel like that we, as a staff and ensemble, left our best effort, and the best possible show experience for the audience on the floor at FFCC Championships and WGI Nationals?

That said, we'll always welcome input from you the members if there is a better way to put things together. Otherwise, we'd like to have this schedule solidified here on the member forum calendar as soon as the drum corps' announce their respective winter camp schedules and we get a listing of FBA events and the various concerts/recitals or your respective universities.

*Please make sure to download all informational items on the website and in the exercise packet files. Showing up at auditions and telling us you couldn't download them will really put you behind the 8 ball in terms of your chances of making the line. In casting the ensemble, the staff of INFINITY is always looking for proactive/prepared/mature individuals with a great deal of determination/passion and commitment. Therefore, please contact me a.s.a.p if your having problems downloading any of the items.

Good luck to you all and hope to see you as a member of INFINITY Percussion soon. Thanks again for your interest.

Tom

Tom Hurst
Program Coordinator
INFINITY Percussion