Percussion Studio Handbook

INTRODUCTION
The purpose of this handbook is answer many of the frequently asked questions concerning the procedures, policies and governance of the percussion studio. If there any questions concerning procedures that you are unclear about, you are to contact Dr. Larkin. Do not rely on other music students to give accurate information. Reminder: At Iowa State University, the student is responsible to know, understand and complete all requirements concerning completion of your program. “You did not tell me that I had to do that”, is not an excuse.

OBJECTIVES
My goal for percussion students at Iowa State University is for you to develop into functioning real time musicians. The meaning of this is for you to develop the ability to pick up a new piece of music, analyze the requirements to realize this music, develop a strategy to learn it and be fully prepared at the time of the first rehearsal. Each percussion student will receive a notebook with the appropriate degree plan for each student. I consider the material in the degree plan a minimum of material to be covered during your time at Iowa State.

LESSONS
Lessons are 50 minutes and it should be the student’s goal to make the most of that time. Unless other arrangements have been made with Dr. Larkin, all lesson materials should come from the degree plan. All lessons will begin in my office with a brief discussion of goals for the lesson before we proceed. Some students come to their lessons with a list of goals for the lessons...this is very helpful. Please avoid strategies to “shorten” lessons such as: 1. Arriving 10 minutes late for every lesson. 2. Arriving 10 minutes late and standing in my office waiting for me to tell you to do something. 3. Arriving to your lesson only to inform me that you have to go to your locker to get your stick bag.

MAKE-UP LESSONS
Make up lessons will only be scheduled only if a twenty-four notice is given to Dr. Larkin previous to the lesson meeting time. I will not schedule make-lessons because you failed to plan your lesson six days previous. If you are not ready at the time of your lesson, you will receive a failing grade for that lesson.
CONCERT ATTENDANCE  
Each student will attend a minimum of twelve concerts or recitals. Beginning in the spring of 2009, only events taking place on our campus will be counted as acceptable events. In addition, beginning in 2009, all students will attend at least three vocal performances and a minimum of four solo instrumental recitals. The remaining five events will be your choice but it is the hope of your professor that you will experience as many different types of performances as you can during your short time as a student. Each student will present a program of the event at his or hers next lesson.

JURIES AND CONTINUATION EXAM  
Jury Exam  
At the end of each semester, each percussion student will perform a jury performance exam in front of the percussion studio jury committee. Semester juries are 20 minutes and are designed to display your abilities and progress in the areas of snare drum (concert, rudimental and modern corp style), timpani (performance and tuning), mallets (xylophone, marimba and vibraphone), drum set (latin, jazz and rock styles), orchestral hand instruments, sight reading and world percussion instruments. The objective of the jury is to allow other faculty to observe and note your progress. The jury should be approached as an audition exam and your presentation should be a major concern. Students coming to juries wearing sweats and tennis shoes do not make much of an impression. The jury experience is the closet simulation of an audition and should be approached with great seriousness.

Continuation Exam  
At the end of your fourth semester of study, each percussion student will undergo a major review examination in front of a music department committee. The main objective of this exam is to determine your progress, status and to make any recommendations concerning your continued study. There is a work/check sheet in the music office that spells out in great detail the procedure for arranging and preparing for your continuation. Dr. Larkin suggests that take possession of this document previous to the semester of your exam.

GRADING  
Grading of percussion lessons will be largely determined by your progress in accomplishing your degree plan. I encourage students to visit with me during lessons to discuss your progress and pending grade.

OFFICE HOURS  
Dr. Larkin will be posting an office hour this term and students are encouraged to use this office hour to take care of any degree business. Please do not come to your lessons with the intention of talking about your continuation or other non-lessons subjects.