

Georgia Southern University Front Ensemble Audition Packet 2026 Edition



Message from the Drumline Coordinator

Greetings all,

I would like to thank you for considering the Georgia Southern University Front Ensemble. I look forward to meeting everyone at auditions, and I am excited to see the beginning glimpses of what is sure to be a spectacular season. The transition from high school to collegiate marching band can seem daunting to some. At one point, I was right there in your shoes. We perform various halftime shows for every home game, we participate in a few parades, and the drumline partakes in lots of extra performances for Eagle Nation throughout the season. The friends and connections that you will cultivate within the marching band will have a long-lasting impact. We look forward to having you come and be a part of a long-standing tradition of excellence that we have created here at GSU. Please carefully read the information on the following pages so that you know about important dates and music. Should you have any questions at all, please reach out. I am happy to assist you. See you at the auditions. Go Eagles and Hail Southern!

Sergio G. Arreguin
SPMB Drumline Coordinator
gsudrumline@gmail.com

Important Dates

Event	Date	Time	Location
Audition Day #1	February 21	9:00am - 5:00pm	Foy Music Building
Audition Day #2	April 25	9:00am - 5:00pm	Foy Music Building
Percussion Camp #1	June 5 - 7	Schedule to come soon	Foy Music Building
Percussion Camp #2	July 17-19	Schedule to come soon	Foy Music Building
Percussion Camp #3	July 31 - Aug 2	Schedule to come soon	Foy Music Building

Please put these dates in your calendar and make plans to attend. It is important to attend these camps for us to have the best start of the season possible.

Please note that we will be hosting two separate audition days. If you are unable to attend one date, please attend the other. We would like to see everyone for an in-person audition. When registering for auditions, please select the audition day that best fits your schedule. If you have any conflicts with either audition day, please email us as soon as possible so that we may work with you to get an audition.

It is worth noting that we have had members choose to attend the earlier audition who did not get a contract that day but received valuable feedback and decided to audition again on the second audition day and were given a contract. Food for thought.

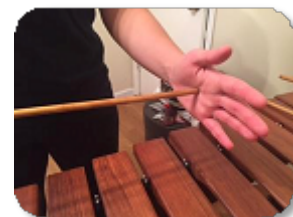
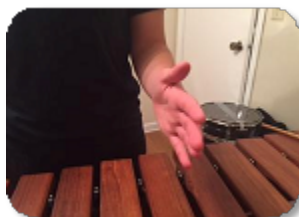
Audition Day Schedule (for both audition days)

9:00 am - 9:15 am	Meeting in Foy
9:15 am - 12:00 pm	Individual auditions/Sub sectionals
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch (on your own)
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Sub sectionals/rotations
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Full Drumline outside of Foy
4:30 pm - 5:00 pm	Wrap up/Tear down

Immediately following tear down, we will meet as a group and discuss the day. Being that we will host two separate audition days, results will not be fully posted until after the second audition day. Following the first audition, we may reach out to individuals to inform them of a contract offer.

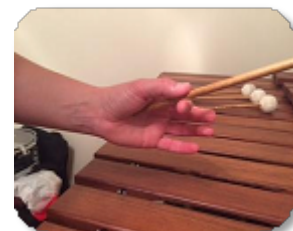
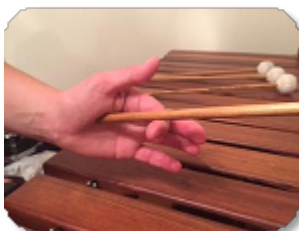
Our 4 mallet grip is the Stevens grip, on all keyboards

1. Turn your hand sideways in a “Handshaking” position.

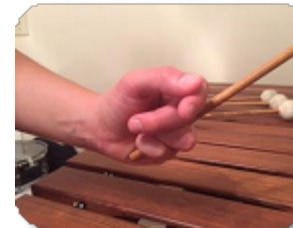
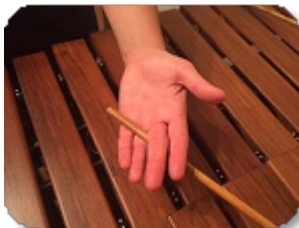


2. For the inside mallet, put the “butt” of the mallet in the center of the palm, slightly above the “life line” that goes around the thumb pad.

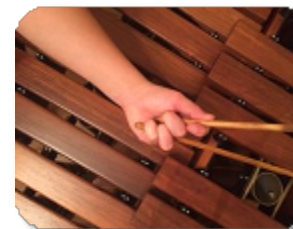
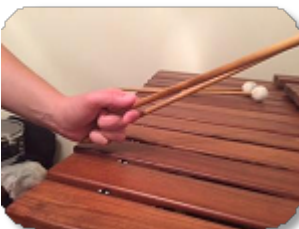
3. Curve out your pointer finger as if you were creating a perch for a small bird. The mallet will rest on the 3rd joint of the pointer finger, directly above the finger nail.



4. The outside mallet will be placed in between the middle finger and the ring finger directly under the first joint (knuckle). The pinky and ring finger will then wrap around the bottom of the shaft.

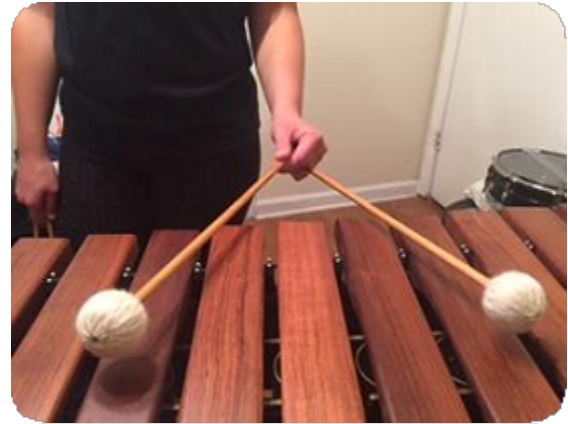


5. The thumb will rest on the top of the mallet creating a fulcrum for the inside mallet. The middle finger will then create stability by resting on the bottom of the shaft. (Your middle finger will either be on top of the shaft or slightly wrapped around it, depending on your hand size.)



Interval Changes

When changing intervals your goal should be to always keep your thumb on top of the mallet and facing towards the ceiling. You should also make sure to keep your “perch” out and never curl your finger into your palm. Interval changes up to a seventh should always be done by “spinning” or rolling the mallet shaft in between the pointer finger and thumb. As you roll to a larger interval you will see that your pointer finger begins to straighten as your thumb remains on top of the mallet.



Exercises

Please prepare the following exercises on the instrument that you plan to audition on. Do your best to perform them at the indicated tempos and be sure to mark time for each exercise.

You will be asked to play these at your audition as well as a short ***SIGHT READING*** excerpt that will showcase your reading capabilities.

What we are looking for

Comfort	We want you to be as relaxed as possible when performing these exercises.
Solid Timing	It is imperative that you establish a good sense of time. USE A METRONOME when practicing!
Adaptability	When you are given feedback, you need to be able to apply that information quickly and efficiently.
Musicality	We make music, not noise. (i.e. Accent/Tap differentiation, Dynamic Contrast Capability, sound quality between each hand)

Drumset/Rack

For those interested in Drumset, in addition to the audition music, we will ask you to play a variety of grooves. (i.e. Rock, Bossa Nova, Hip-Hop, etc) With a variety of halftime shows each season, it is important that you adjust and play what the music calls for.

For those interested in Front Auxillary Rack - the music is notated where Top line G is ride cymbal (X) and crashes are note heads. 4th line D is Cowbell/ Tambourine, and Spaces are tom drums. Our full rack setup contains China cymbals, Crash Cymbals, Cowbells, Tambourine, Shaker, Temple Blocks, Wind Chimes, and Break Drum, and we are always adding to it. In Addition to learning the audition music, we will ask you to play a few standard ***snare drum rudiments*** to assess your capabilities further.

Lockjaw Variations

Marimba

Base

L...

R

MDL Drum Set



4

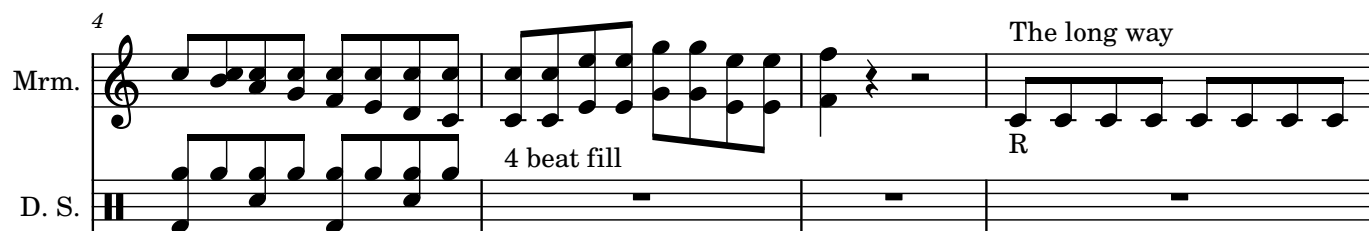
Mrm.

The long way

4 beat fill

R

D. S.

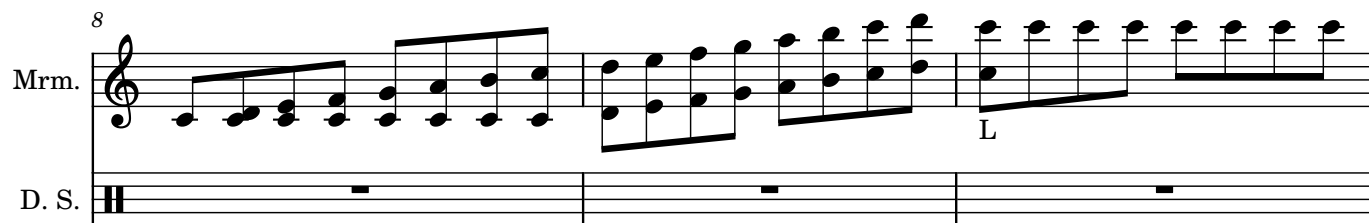


8

Mrm.

L

D. S.



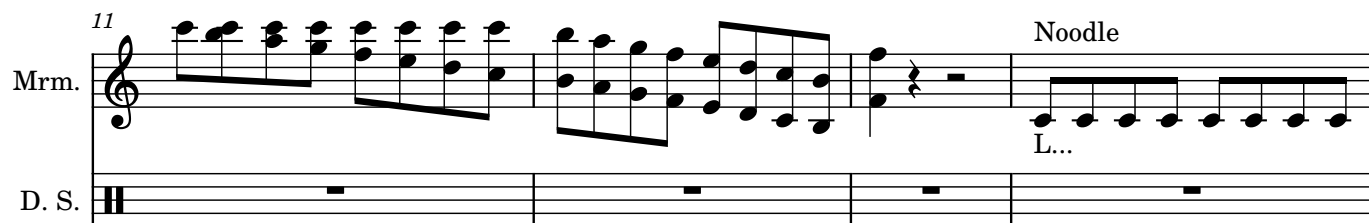
11

Mrm.

Noodle

L...

D. S.



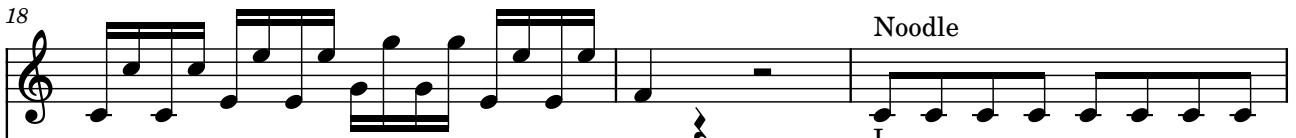
15

Mrm.

D. S.

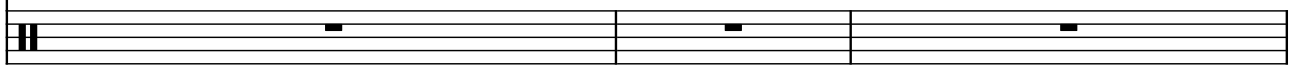


18

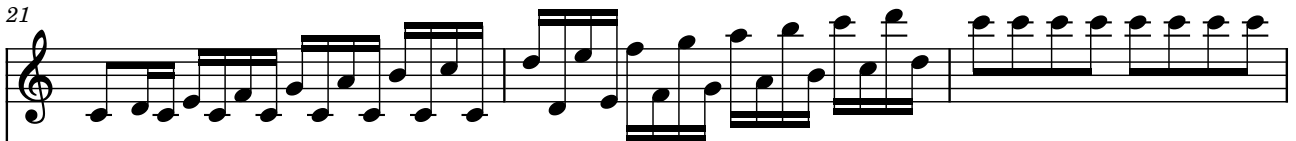
Mrm. 

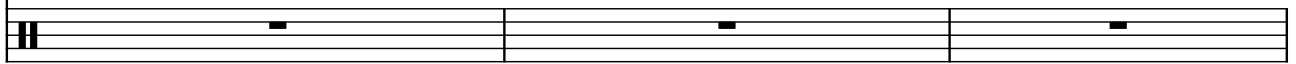
Noodle

L...


D. S. 

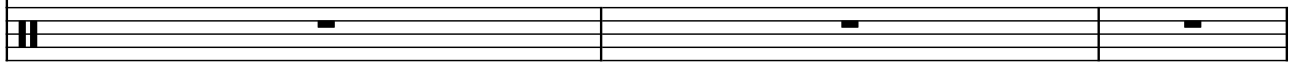
21

Mrm. 


D. S. 

24

Mrm. 

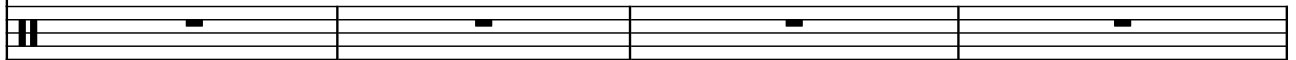
D. S. 

27


Mrm. 

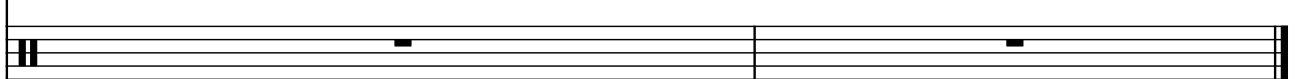
Base

L...

D. S. 

31

Mrm. 

D. S. 

Mallets

Summertime

GSU Front Ensemble

♩ = 80

5

9

13 (♩ = ♪)

17

21

25

Green Scales

GSU Front Ensemble

$\text{♩} = 100$

The musical score consists of three staves of music in treble clef. The first staff begins with a dynamic marking of *f* and a tempo marking of $\text{♩} = 100$. The first staff contains four measures with time signatures of 4/4, 3/4, 4/4, and 3/4. The second staff begins with a measure number of 4 and contains four measures with time signatures of 3/4, 4/4, 2/4, and 3/4. The third staff begins with a measure number of 8 and contains four measures with time signatures of 2/4, 4/4, 3/4, and 2/4. The music is a continuous sequence of eighth notes across the staves.

A standard in fluidity and motion, Green Scales allow us to see how well you can move around the board while maintaining a good quality sound.

- Practice this in all 12 Major Scales.
- Maintain proper zone placement on the bars as you move around.
- Avoid an Accented sound on the turnaround notes. All notes should be at an equal dynamic
- Practice this at various tempos and dynamics.

Chromatic Majors

Repeat until you are back to your C major Scale

Marimba

MDL Drum Set

3

Mrm.

D. S.

5

Mrm.

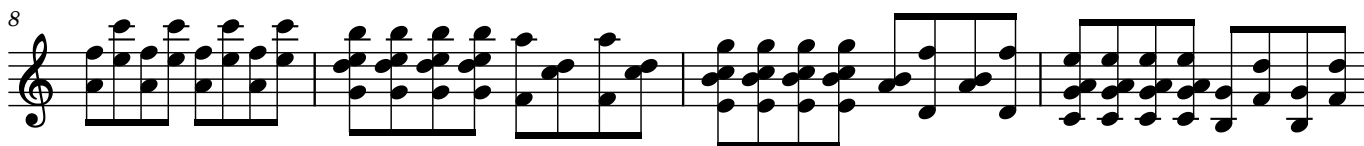
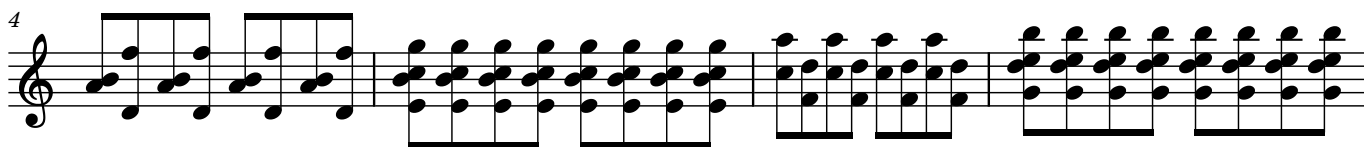
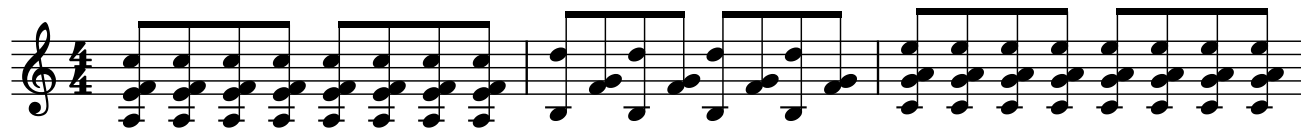
D. S.

7

Mrm.

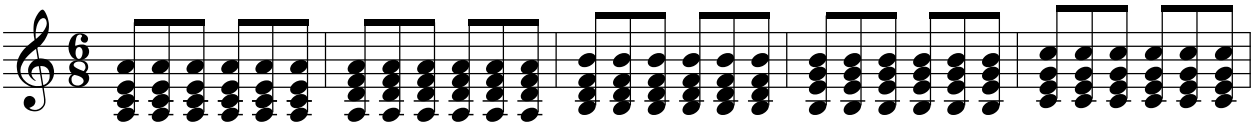
D. S.

Mallet Control blocks

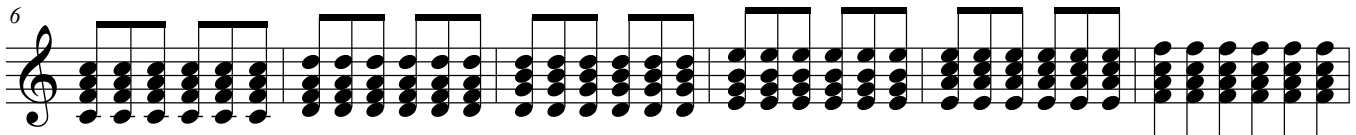


Chordal Inversions

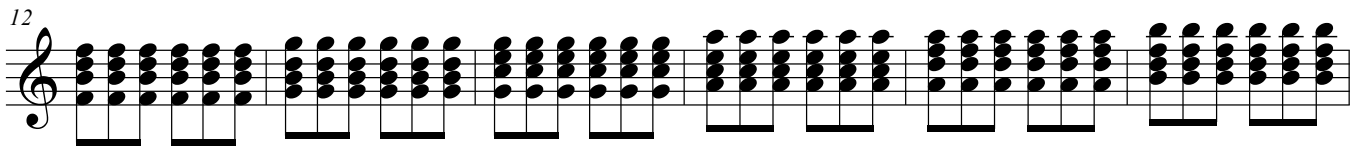
Vibraphone



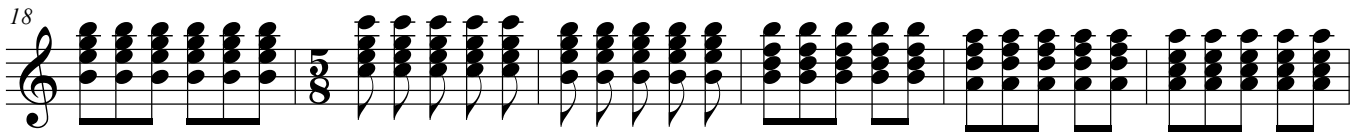
Vib. ⁶



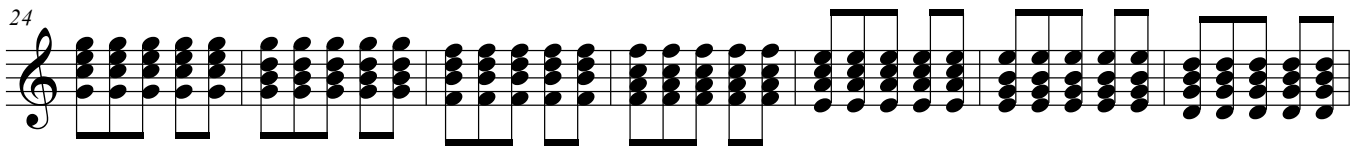
Vib. ¹²



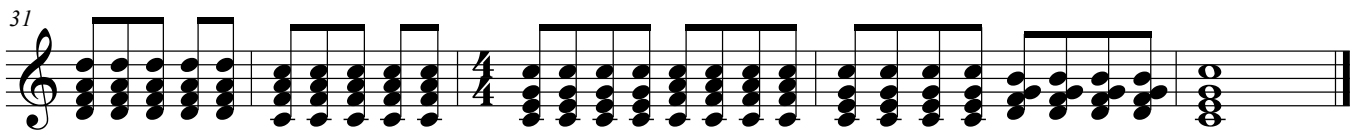
Vib. ¹⁸



Vib. ²⁴



Vib. ³¹



Broccoli

Eat your veggies, daily

GSU Front Ensemble

♩ = 114

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of six staves of music. Each staff contains a series of rhythmic patterns represented by eighth notes. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 below the notes. The score concludes with a final chord on the sixth staff.

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1

5
3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

10
2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 4 3 2 1


15
3 2 1 4 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 4 2 1 4 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 4 3 1 4 3 2 1 4 3 2

20
1 4 3 2 1 4 3 2 4 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 4 2 1 4 3 2 1 4 3 1 4 3 2 1 4 3 2

25

Lockjaw Kit

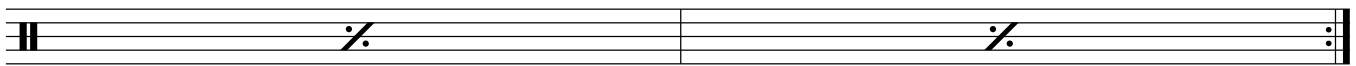
Drum Set



D. S.

5

repeat as needed



Summer Time

♩. = 100-124



Punk Rock!!



Green Scales Drumset

♩ = 100

Drum Set

Drum set notation for measures 1-4. The first two measures are in 4/4 time, and the last two are in 2/4 time. The notation includes a double bar line with repeat dots in the middle of each 4/4 measure. Above the staff, 'x' marks indicate cymbal hits for each eighth note. The drum set part consists of a bass drum pattern (quarter notes) and a snare drum pattern (eighths and sixteens).

D. S.

5

Drum set notation for measures 5-8. The first two measures are in 2/4 time, and the last two are in 4/4 time. The notation includes a double bar line with repeat dots in the middle of each 2/4 measure. Above the staff, 'x' marks indicate cymbal hits for each eighth note. The drum set part consists of a bass drum pattern (quarter notes) and a snare drum pattern (eighths and sixteens).

D. S.

9

Drum set notation for measure 9. It starts with a cymbal hit (x) on the first eighth note, followed by a bass drum quarter note. The rest of the measure is empty, ending with a double bar line.

Green Variation 1 Drumset



Chordal Inversions Kit

♩. = 70

add lib

Drum Set

Drum Set musical notation, measures 1-6. The notation includes a 6/8 time signature and a complex rhythmic pattern with eighth and sixteenth notes, including rests marked with 'x'.

7

D. S. musical notation, measures 7-11. It consists of five measures, each containing a double bar line followed by a fermata and a '2' above it.

16

D. S. musical notation, measures 16-22. It features a 5/8 time signature and a complex rhythmic pattern with eighth and sixteenth notes, including rests marked with 'x'.

23

D. S. musical notation, measures 23-27. It consists of five measures, each containing a double bar line followed by a fermata and a '2' above it.

32

D. S. musical notation, measures 32-38. It features a 4/4 time signature and a complex rhythmic pattern with eighth and sixteenth notes, including rests marked with 'x'.

Broccoli Kit

♩ = 114

Drum Set

D. S.

D. S.

D. S.

D. S.

D. S.

D. S.

Green Scales

GSU Front Ensemble

♩ = 100



4

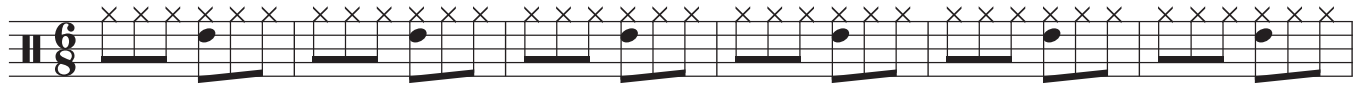


7



Chordal Inversions

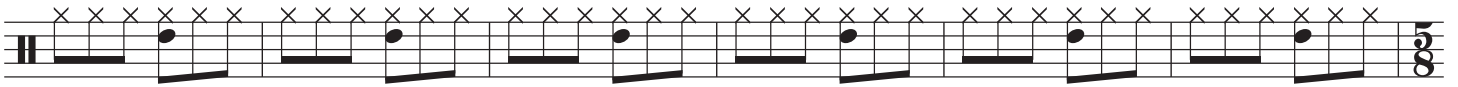
♩. = 70



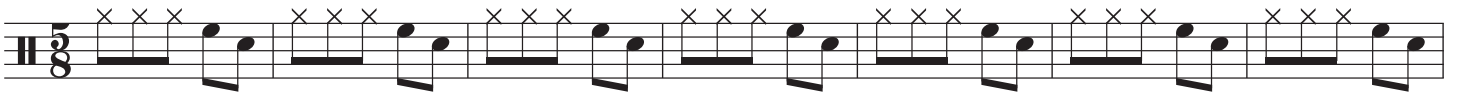
7



13



19



26



33



