Fall 2022 Sonoma State Wind Ensemble & Symphony Orchestra Audition packet: Percussion

Auditions consist of the two excerpts (for snare and mallets) found on the following pages. Auditionees are encouraged to prepare both excerpts but may elect to just prepare only one of the excerpts if desired. Please bring your own sticks and mallets.

Tips on taking a successful audition

If possible, bring all music to a teacher early on (i.e. 1-2 months ahead of the audition) for advice and guidance on appropriate fingering, bowing, breathing, tonguing, practice strategies, etc. In addition, many (free) masterclasses on standard excerpts and audition strategies can be found on Youtube.

Get a concrete idea of the appropriate tempi (metronome markings) for your excerpts. Have these goals in mind over the course of your preparation and work toward them gradually over the course of several weeks or months rather than expecting overnight miracles. Practice effectively and correctly from the beginning. Remember that "Practice makes permanent." Focusing on the most challenging passages over time will likely result in a more confident, fluid and even performance at the audition.

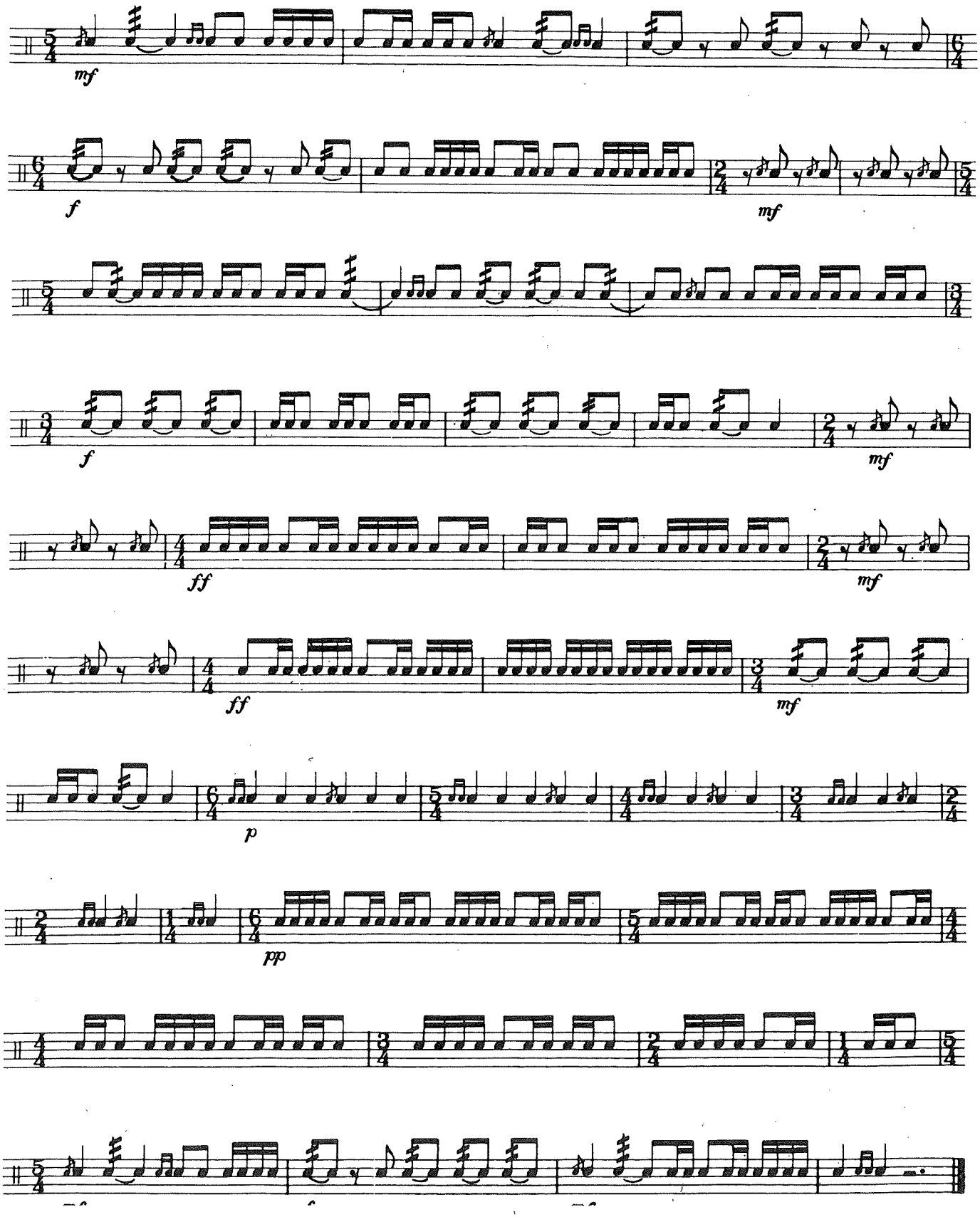
Listen to a recording of each excerpt. Even better, listen to several recordings, as different ensembles and conductors may have widely varying interpretations of the same piece, and you'll hear different and interesting things (solos, balances, tempi, etc.) in each one. The best approach would be to listen while following along with a score (many are available on imslp.org) as well as your own part. This will enable you to get a sense of how your part functions within the entire ensemble.

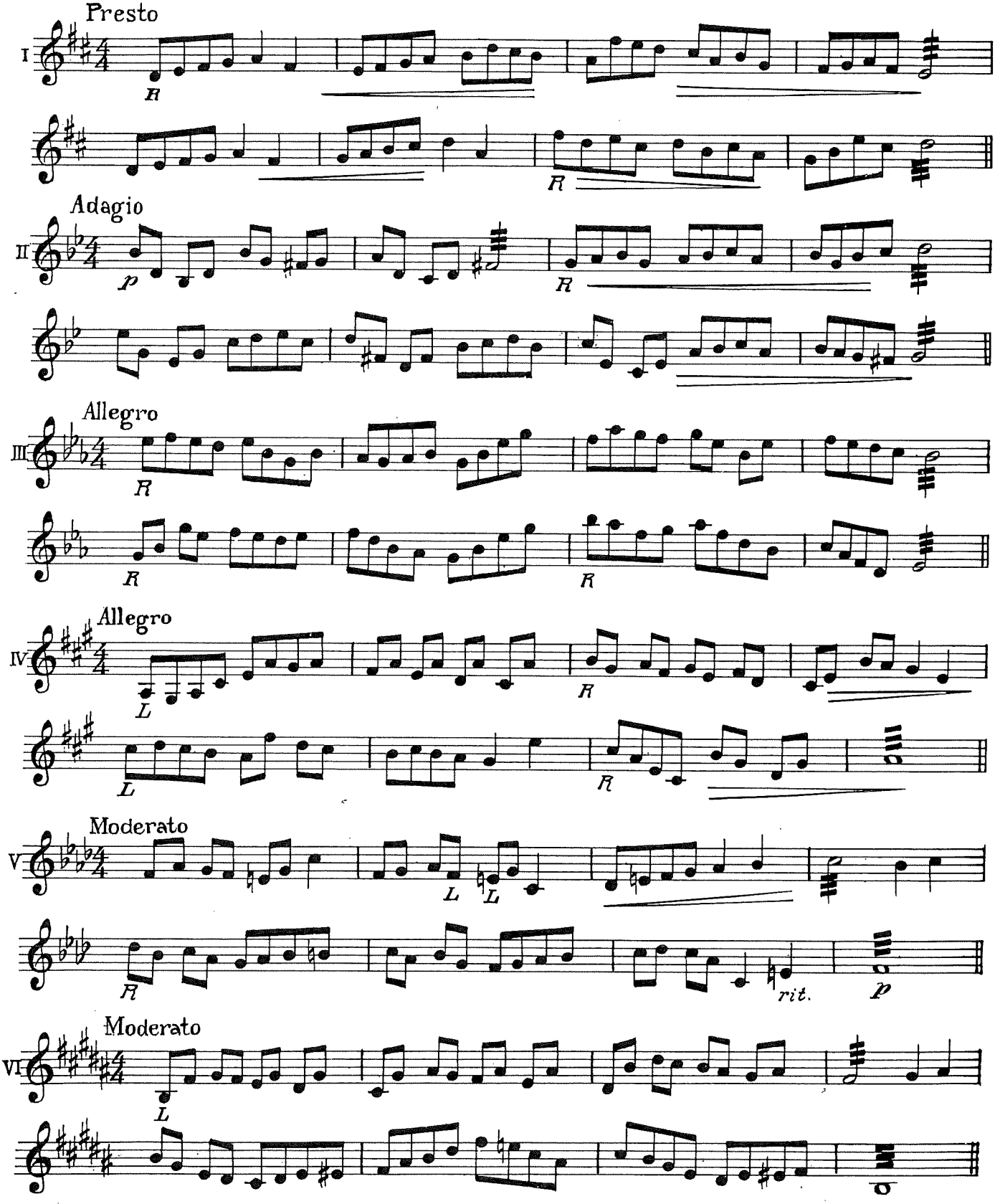
Do a “mock audition” (or several mock auditions) by playing through your scales and excerpts in front of others for feedback and to simulate the stress factor of playing in front of other people.

 SNARE - PLAY ALL

Once again, this exercise utilizes changing meters. The pulse is constant, only the number of beats in the measure changes. Be sure to make all sixteenth note rhythms as even as possible.

♩= 92-104



Mallets Choose Any Three of These Etudes

SIX MELODIES