



Audition Process for the 2026-2027 Season

Thank you for your interest in joining the OU Basketball Bands!

The Sound of the Sooners is aligned with the foundation, design, and pillars of the University of Oklahoma Bands and *The Pride of Oklahoma* Marching Band. As such, this document reflects the verbiage and foundational designs of *The Pride*. Below are the details for the audition process.

Who Needs to Audition:

- All Drum Set players and Bass guitarists
- Anyone who has not passed an audition to gain admission into *The Pride of Oklahoma*, *Symphony Band*, *Wind Symphony*, or *Jazz O or U*.
- Anyone who wants to play a different instrument than the one they play in one of the above large auditioned OU ensembles.

Below are the specific categories in which your audition will be assessed. As you practice, consider the following areas of musical details:

- **TONE:** Play with a clear, focused, resonant sound. Great tone supports great intonation and helps the ensemble sound ring and carry.
- **PULSE:** Play with a steady, reliable pulse. Practice with a metronome! Scales and musical selections will be performed with a metronome during your audition.
- **CLARITY:** Demonstrate clean attacks and releases, clear articulations, and even technique. Details matter and can set your audition apart!
- **ACCURACY:** Accurate notes and rhythms are within your control. Prepare carefully, eliminate avoidable mistakes, and show excellent attention to detail.
- **EXPRESSION:** Go beyond the notes and rhythms. Perform with musical direction, forward motion, and clear, convincing dynamics and expression.
- **ENDURANCE & POISE:** Practice performing your complete audition for others. Consistent daily preparation builds the endurance and confidence needed to perform your best under pressure.

The final page of this document is our audition rubric. Refer to the rubric often to see where your performance would place you and use that information to help you continue to refine your performance!

AUDITION

Submit a ONE TAKE RECORDING of yourself performing your preferred part from “SOTS Oklahoma (Bb Intro + Chromatics + Bball Oklahoma)” using the TE Tuner App Met Preset. Links and further instructions are below. The video must show your full upper half with hands and face visible.

>>> [ALL PARTS - SOTS OKLAHOMA - DOWNLOAD YOUR MUSIC LINK](#) <<<

FOR WOODWIND, BRASS, AND BASS GUITAR:

- a. Perform a 2 octave, Concert Bb Scale (Concert C [G->G->G] for Mellophones), hold the top note for 8 counts before descending, WITH a metronome audible on the recording.
Tempo: Quarter note = 120 bpm
- b. Perform a full range chromatic scale on quarter notes WITH a metronome audible on the recording. Tempo: Quarter note = 132 bpm
- c. Perform “**SOTS Oklahoma**” WITH a metronome audible on the recording.
 - i. Find Your Part Here: [SOTS OKLAHOMA MUSIC/PARTS](#)
 - ii. USE THIS “TE TUNER App” Preset:
 1. [SOTS OKLAHOMA SILVER - Audition Tempo Met Preset](#)
 2. Here’s a video on how to do this!
 Import Tonal Energy Preset Track to iPhone mobile iOS
 - iii. Play the part you’re most comfortable with (i.e. Trumpet 1, 2, or 3, etc.).

FOR DRUMSET

2. PART 1: Perform a Drum Set Solo between 1 and 2 minutes in length. Mix styles, tempi, and dynamics. Show off different grooves and how you can change tempos via accel./rit.
3. PART 2: Play along with and record your version of “**SOTS Oklahoma.**” Your full body should be in view in the video.
 - a. [DOWNLOAD THE DRUMLESS TRACK HERE](#)
 - b. Listen to this old Sooner Showmen recording of [Oklahoma Intro + Bball Oklahoma](#) for insight on how to play it. Be creative with grooves/fills!
 - c. Play along with the drumless track using headphones.

AUDITION SUBMISSION

Audition Video submissions are **DUE Thursday, October 8 by 11:59pm**. Your YouTube video should be listed as public or unlisted in order to be viewed by the judges. All prospective members must complete the Sign-Up and Audition Form (link below). This is where you will paste your YouTube link.

Sign-Up and Audition Submission Link: https://qualtrics.ou.edu/jfe/form/SV_6GxzDISs8HX6Sns

WHAT'S NEXT

Based on the sign-ups and submitted auditions, the directors will then set the rosters for the two bands, plus a sub-list. The rosters will be announced the week of **October 12-16** and all members who completed the Sign-Up (and Audition Submission) Form will be notified via email of the results.

We will find a time for some rehearsals before the first games.

REQUIRED SPRING 2027 CLASS – MUTE 1090/5090 Sec. 001

While SOTS 27 will begin operating in mid to late October of the Fall 2026 semester, it is generally expected that everyone participating enroll in the variable credit hour course MUTE 1090 or 5090 Sec. 001 for the Spring 2027 semester. Once the spring semester begins, the combined bands will meet once a week for a 1 hour 30 minute rehearsal in the Catlett Music Center, Room 116 (Band Hall).

Rehearsals in Spring 2027 will be on Thursdays from 2:30pm to 4:00pm.

Wishing you all the best as you practice for your audition! If you have any questions, please email them to Dr. Shannon at es@ou.edu and the appropriate staff member will be in touch to assist you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Eric Shannon

Mr. Marc Mueller

Audition Scoring Information / Rubric on next page:

Audition Scoring Criteria Rubric:

WW, Brass, Bass Guitar:

- Concert Bb (Concert C for Mellophones) Scale = 5 points
- Chromatic Scale = 10 points
- *SOTS Oklahoma* Tune = 35 points
- **Total = 50 points**

Drum Set:

- Drum Solo (1-2 minutes) = 15 points
- *SOTS Oklahoma* with drumless track = 35 points
- **Total = 50 points**

Rarely	Sometimes	Usually	Always
(0-30%) POINTS	(31-70%) POINTS	(71-90%) POINTS	(91-100%) POINTS
Student RARELY plays with	Student SOMETIMES plays with	Student USUALLY plays with:	Student CONSISTENTLY plays with:
Clear, vibrant tone	Clear, vibrant tone	Clear, vibrant tone	Clear, vibrant tone
Accurate tuning	Accurate tuning	Accurate tuning	Accurate tuning
Stable pulse	Stable pulse	Stable pulse	Stable pulse
Clear note starts and releases	Clear note starts and releases	Clear note starts and releases	Clear note starts and releases
Rhythmic Accuracy	Rhythmic Accuracy	Rhythmic Accuracy	Rhythmic Accuracy
Note Accuracy	Note Accuracy	Note Accuracy	Note Accuracy
Convincing musical expression and attention to musical detail	Convincing musical expression and attention to musical detail	Convincing musical expression and attention to musical detail	Convincing musical expression and attention to musical detail