A Superior Tradition

The University of Northern Iowa’s School of Music offers one of the Midwest’s finest and most complete percussion programs. Unmatched performance opportunities and our extraordinary music education curriculum guide each student in the fullest development of his or her abilities and career choices. All students who wish to enter the percussion program at UNI must first audition for the percussion faculty as early as possible in the school year prior to the semester they plan to enroll. Please visit music.uni.edu/apply for audition dates and application materials.

Individualized Attention

All percussion majors and minors study privately with our outstanding percussion faculty on a weekly basis. Instruction is offered in all areas of percussion as well as in the literature and pedagogy of percussion instruments. Students also have the opportunity to study with visiting guest artists throughout the year. Drum set lessons are offered that are designed to prepare the student for any professional or creative situation. Students learn the fundamental drum set styles of jazz, Cuban, Brazilian, and rock/funk as well as the art of brushes. A systematic study of classic methods along with exercises designed by the UNI faculty, and a rigorous listening regimen provide students with a well-rounded percussion education.
Performance Opportunities

**Percussion/Marimba Ensembles**
The UNI Percussion/Marimba Ensembles offer percussionists the opportunity to explore the many instruments and techniques of their own area as well as literature from various historical eras.

**Non-Western Drumming**
UNI offers opportunities to learn non-western drumming styles including the West African and Kaji-Daiko Drum Ensembles. These ensembles include UNI music students as well as students from other majors who are interested in learning about and performing the music and dance of other cultures.

**Additional Experiences**
Also available to UNI percussionists are the Wind Ensemble, Chamber Ensembles, Symphonic Band, Panther Marching Band, Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra (including opera performances), Jazz I, II and III Bands and combos. Solo experience is gained in weekly wind and percussion seminars as well as semester juries and solo recitals. Advanced students may gain professional experience playing for regional orchestras and other ensembles.

**Competitions and Visiting Artists**
Students are encouraged to audition for area, regional and national competitions. Percussionists from UNI have been well represented as top prize winners in the Young Artist competitions of the Omaha Symphony, the Fort Dodge Symphony, the Des Moines Symphony, as well as the American Wind Symphony Orchestra, and Ohio Light Opera auditions and as finalists and Grand Prize winners in the prestigious Young Artist Competition sponsored by the Women’s Association of the Minnesota Symphony Orchestra. Additionally, percussion students at Northern Iowa benefit from many concert, master class and workshop opportunities. For a list of recent and upcoming visiting artists, visit music.uni.edu/guest artists.

Learn about our faculty at music.uni.edu/directory