

FIFTEENTH



ANNIVERSARY

# ATLANTA QUEST

AUDITION MATERIALS

2017

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CYMBALS

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# ATLANTA QUEST 2017

## Cymbal Technique Guide

Thank you for your interest in being a part of the 2017 Atlanta Quest and Q2 Cymbal Lines!

While most of the technique will be covered at auditions, this packet will help guide you as you prepare for the audition weekends.

### **WHAT TO EXPECT AT AUDITIONS:**

Here at Atlanta Quest, we strive to promote a stress-free and relaxed audition environment and that philosophy is echoed through the rest of our organization. While it is an audition, we want you to feel relaxed and in control of everything you do. Regardless of any outcome of your audition, we at least hope you have an enjoyable weekend and are able to leave with a positive and educational experience.

At the first audition, we will spend a majority of our time defining and teaching the foundations of our technique.

This will include:

***Playing positions:*** vertical, horizontal/gumption, etc

***Playing techniques:*** crashes, chokes, taps, sizzles, and other timbres/methods.

***Flips:*** variations, timing, pathways, quality of motion.

***Short visual and musical phrases:*** releases & reloads, simple to complex split patterns, visual sequences.

We will teach a few exercises that we use to break down and reinforce these visual and musical concepts.



Also anticipate a short visual/marching block; please come prepared with athletic apparel including tennis shoes, no flip-flops or sandals please.

## CRITERIA:

**Musicality:** While cymbals are often seen as a visual complement to the ensemble, they are in fact an instrument and will be played as such. At Atlanta Quest, we always approach cymbal playing with the best sound quality possible, whether it's a crash, a sizzle, or any other timbres you can imagine.

**Strength:** Cymbals are a very physical instrument that requires high levels of arm/shoulder/core control. While we will do plenty of strength training throughout the season, make sure you put in ample preparation before the audition that way you are not struggling with the physical side of the instrument, and can perform to the best of your ability.

**Presentation:** What do we mean by presentation? This is how the line is viewed from an outside perspective. From how we rehearse to how we carry ourselves in the lot and in the show, we strive for a confident, stoic mentality that reflects our professionalism. At auditions, you will be presenting yourself to the staff as well as your fellow peers. Things we will be looking for: positive attitude, confident mentality, desire to learn, and how you interact with other auditionees.



**Visual:** For cymbals, the visual package includes the following: our flip ups/downs, playing positions, easy to complex visual sequences, as well as body/cymbal control while on the move. In everything you do visually, we encourage you to think about these concepts: accuracy, explosiveness, and control; these will be further defined at auditions.



## FAQ:

### *Do I need to bring my own cymbals?*

While we will have a couple pairs of cymbals available, it is highly recommended that you bring your own cymbals to the audition.

### *I don't think I'm ready...I don't know if I should come to the audition.*

Yes you are! The worst thing you can do is cut yourself from the audition, you never know what the possibilities are if you don't take that first step.

### *How can I get stronger before the audition?*

Anything and everything, you can lift weights, go running, work on core strength exercises (sit ups, crunches, etc..). But the best way to get better at holding your cymbals is simply that; holding your cymbals. Try holding your cymbals up for a minute, then 2 minutes, and keep building from there.

### *I've never played cymbals before, can I still come to auditions?*

We will be teaching all of our fundamentals at auditions. Experience is helpful, but by no means required; we still encourage you to come for a great learning experience!

