

Audrey Holden is an accomplished percussionist and highly involved music educator who values creating supportive environments that provide young learners with opportunities to strengthen their relationship with music and their community.

Born and raised in Austin, Texas, Audrey graduated from McCallum High School as a member of the McCallum Fine Arts Academy. There she excelled in a number of percussion ensemble and chamber settings, which is where she was first introduced to steel band. Her exposure to the melodious tone of the steel pan in McCallum's Knights of Steel program launched her love for the instrument, leading her to individually pursue higher levels of involvement in the pan community. In 2017, she traveled to Antigua with mentor Emily Lemmerman to perform with West Side Symphony in their Panorama competition. Later that year, Audrey attended the building workshop at the Festival of Steel in Morgantown, West Virginia, where she built her own historical single second pan. Audrey continued her education at TCU earning a BME with a specialization in percussion instrumental music. While at TCU, she performed with their Percussion Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, Wind Symphony, and marching band. Her individual achievements include competing as a finalist in the 2019 TCU Concerto Competition performing double seconds concerto Summer Springs by Louis Raymond-Kolker, launching KitchenSync Percussion, a percussion duo focused on commissioning new percussive repertoire, and being named the most outstanding graduating senior in the TCU school of music.



Wielding creativity and innovation as strong suits, Audrey spent her time in the 2020 quarantine co-creating and producing a virtual early music class with Inside Out Steelband, a non-profit organization based in Austin, Texas. The interactive Zoom program, Inside Out Sprouts! was created for children under the age of 5 to continue their musical development while connecting with a new virtual community from the safety of home. Inside Out Sprouts! has completed five month-long seasons and has featured all manner of guests, including Liam Teague, Daron Roberts, and Cara Wildman. Audrey's easygoing nature and sense of humor makes her time teaching students of all ages both rewarding and entertaining. In addition to her involvement in early music classes, Audrey spent several years as a camp counselor at Heart O' the Hills month long summer camp. There, she was able to broaden her community outreach, teaching and connecting to campers ages 6-16. While she served as assistant program director in 2018, Audrey was the recipient of Kitty's Corner, awarded to the most involved and influential counselor of the summer voted on by the entire staff.

Audrey prides herself in being a source of positivity and finds strength as a leader in her ability to spark inspiration and motivation in the people around her. With a love of all things music, entertainment, and educational development, she seeks to continually develop, create and share her musical artistry with those in her community and beyond. Her position as assistant director at the Rhythm Project in Norfolk, Virginia is a blend of these talents and ambitions, and she is excited to contribute to her new students and wonderful staff at the Virginia Arts Festival.