

# Concert Percussion Master Class

Midwest Clinic 2001  
Presented by Jim Catalano

## A Percussionist is....

*A musician that plays it all:*

- 1 Battery (Drums)
- 1 Tuned Percussion
  - Timpani
  - Mallet Keyboard Instruments
- 1 Accessory Percussion
- 1 World Percussion

## Tools of a Percussionist

- 1 Pencil w/ eraser
- 1 Drum Key
- 1 Dark towel or pad to place on music stand for sticks mallets and accessories
- 1 Pitch Pipe or Tuning Fork
- 1 Practice Pad (Rubber or Tunable)
- 1 Mallet Bag
- 1 Drumsticks, Mallets

## Basic Tools of a Percussionist

- 1 Concert Drumsticks (Round bead)
- 1 Drumset Drumsticks (Acorn shaped bead)
- 1 Wire or Nylon Brushes
- 1 Timpani Mallets (General & Staccato)
- 1 Soft Yam Mallets (Marimba, Vibes, Suspended Cymbal)
- 1 Hard Rubber Mallets (Xylophone, Wood & Temple Blocks)

## Rules for a Percussionist

- 1 Keep your eyes on the conductor
- 1 Keep your ears open to the music played by the other instruments around you
- 1 Think expressively - play with dynamics
- 1 Avoid extraneous noise
- 1 Always be thinking ahead anticipate your next move
- 1 Organize assignments in advance

## Percussion Assignment Chart

## **Snare Drum**

- 1 Drum (Metal or Wood Shell)
  - 3x13” Piccolo Snare Drum
  - 5x14” Snare Drum
  - 6.5x14” Snare Drum
- 1 Snare Drum Stand
  - Extended height model, stable, basket clamp
- 1 Heads
  - Medium weight coated white

## **Drum Mechanics Snare Drum**

- 1 Grip
  - Traditional - (Great for jazz, marching)
  - Matched - (Universal for all percussion)
- 1 Drum should not be tilted (Not necessary)
- 1 Posture
  - Back straight & feet slightly spread
  - Top of drum height at waist level
  - Arms comfortably at side
- 1 Head Changing
  - How to:
  - How often:
    - Watch for dents, stretching, clear spots
- 1 Snare Strainer Tension
- 1 Drumsticks (2B, SD 1, Barrel shaped bead)
- 1 Wire or Nylon Brushes
- 1 Tuning
- 1 Striking Area
  - Soft
  - General
  - Dry staccato
- 1 Stroke
  - Tap
  - Rebound
  - Bounce
- 1 Rolls
  - Long Open Roll (RRL)
  - Multiple Bounce (buzz w/ 16th note base)
- 1 Grace Notes

- Flam
- Ruff
- 1 Rim Shots (Many types)
- 1 Rudiments
  - Roll Patterns
  - Flam Patterns
  - Diddle Patterns
  - Drag Patterns
- 1 Practice slow to fast to slow
- 1 Practice soft to loud to soft

## **Bass Drum**

- 1 Stand Type
  - Cradle
  - Suspension Ring
  - “All-Terrain” Bass Drum Stand
- 1 Tilt of bass drum on stand
  - General playing – 5 – 10 degree tilt
- 1 Drumhead Selection
  - Ludwig Weather Master Smooth White
  - Fiberskyn III Drumheads (Remo)
    - 1 Calf-like, Darker and dryer sound
  - Renaissance Drumheads (Remo)
- 1 Tuning
  - Low fundamental – start loose and work tension up to clear low open sound
- 1 Mallets
  - Soft (Special applications)
  - Medium (General playing)
  - Rollers (Pair)
- 1 Anticipation (Watch the conductor)
- 1 Striking area of the bass drum
  - General
  - Dry staccato
  - Soft / Rolls
- 1 Muffling / Dampening
  - Left hand
  - Knee

## **Hand Crash Cymbals**

- 1 18” or 20” Medium weight
- 1 Cymbal cradle on stand
- 1 Straps and pads

- 1 Holding position
- 1 Techniques
  - Glance
  - Choke
  - Open crash

## **Suspended Cymbal**

- 1 Light weight 16” or 18”
- 1 Mallet Selection – soft to medium yarn or cord
  - No timpani mallets, No Drumsticks, (except ride sound)
- 1 Striking areas
- 1 Single stroke
- 1 Roll technique
- 1 Crescendo
- 1 Anticipation
- 1 Dampening

## **Suspended Cymbal Technique Suspended Cymbal Examples Finger Cymbals**

- 1 Quality of sound
  - Zildjian, Sabian
- 1 Holding style
- 1 Striking technique
  - 90 degree angle
- 1 Dampening
  - Body
  - Fingers

## **Tambourine**

- 1 Technique
  - Extraneous jingle sounds
  - Slow - loud passage
  - Slow - fast passage
  - Fast - loud passage
  - Fast - soft passage
  - Shake roll
  - Crescendo roll
  - Thumb roll

## **Slow / Loud Technique Slow / Soft Fast / Loud Technique Fast / Soft Technique**

## **Triangle**

- 1 Product
  - 4", 6" or 8" Triangle
  - Beaters - Variety of diameters & weights
  - Triangle Clip
  - Makers: (Abel, Grover, Black Swamp)
- 1 Holding position
  - On stand
  - In hand
- 1 Striking area
  - Dark sound
  - Bright sound
- 1 Single strokes
- 1 Rolls
  - One hand
  - Two hand
- 1 Muffling

## **Wood Blocks I Temple Blocks**

- 1 Wood Block
  - Holding position
  - Mallet selection
  - Striking area
- 1 Temple Blocks
  - (Set of 5) Pentatonic scale
  - Mallet Selection
  - Striking area

## **Accessories**

- 1 Claves (Rosewood)
  - Holding position
  - Best sound production
- 1 Maracas
  - Technique
  - Rolls
- 1 Castanets
- 1 Sleigh Bells
- 1 Guiro
- 1 Slap stick
- 1 Cabasa / Afuce
- 1 Vibra-Slap

- 1 Shakers
- 1 Agogo Bells

## **Timpani**

- 1 Sizes - 32", 29", 26", 23" (20")
- 1 Mallets
  - General (Medium felt)
  - Soft (Soft felt)
  - Staccato (Hard felt)
- 1 Grip
  - German (Like matched grip for snare drum)
  - French (Wrist turned so that thumb is on top)
- 1 Striking area
- 1 Stroke
- 1 Rolls
- 1 Dampening
- 1 Tuning
- 1 Replacing a head
- 1 Balancing a head and pedal

## **Mallet Percussion**

- 1 Orchestra Bells - Steel or Aluminum - 2.5 Oct.
- 1 Xylophone - Kelson or Rosewood - 3.5 Oct.
- 1 Chimes - Brass Tubes - 1.5 Oct.
- 1 Marimba - Kelson, Rosewood, or Paduk
  - 3, 4, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6, 5 Oct.
- 1 Vibraphone - Aluminum Bars - 3 Oct.

## **Mallet Selection**

- 1 Orchestra Bells
  - Hard rubber
  - Hard plastic (Lexan / Phenolic / Nylon)
  - Brass - only on steel bars
- 1 Xylophone
  - Hard rubber
  - Medium hard plastic (Phenolic / Nylon)
- 1 Chimes
  - Rawhide or hard plastic hammer
- 1 Marimba
  - Med to Soft Rubber
  - Med to Soft Yarn
- 1 Vibes
  - Med to Hard Cord or Yarn

#### Printed Resources

- 1 Percussion Education Source Book
  - Available through The Percussive Arts Society

#### Percussion Web Resources

Add <http://www>.

- 1 Ludwig Drums & Musser Mallet Percussion
  - [ludwig-drums.com](http://ludwig-drums.com)
- 1 Percussive Arts Society
  - [pas.org](http://pas.org)