

Percussion for the Non-Percussionist Band Director

Presented by: Dr. Jefferson Grant
Thursday December 18th, 2025

Strategies for Rehearsal

1. Incorporate Percussionists

Engage percussion students in every part of rehearsal.
Setup, warm-up, and music rehearsal involvement.
Assign responsibilities and create routines.

2. Class/Rehearsal Procedures

Check instructions on the whiteboard.
Setup all instruments before rehearsal.
Engage in warm-ups and avoid idle time.

3. Warm-Up Techniques

Use timpani for pitch matching.
Incorporate snare, vibraphone, and more in exercises.
Encourage "air" or "arm" playing when necessary.

4. Music Selections

Prepare all pieces before rehearsal.
*Allow students to master specific instruments.
Manage part assignments creatively.

5. General Suggestions

Teach counting of multi-measure rests.
Use "Karate Chop" for signaling rehearsal letters.

Technique Instructions

Universal Grip: Achieve natural hand position and grip pressure 1/10.

Roll Types: Different rolls for different instruments.

Multiple Bounce Roll: Overlap bounces hand to hand..

Crash Courses

Timpani: Focus on beating spot and tuning techniques.

Crash Cymbals: Use the 45-degree rule for dynamic control.

Tambourine: Strike over jingles and manage two-handed passages.

Triangle: 45-degree rule and beater selection.

*Instrument Purchase Priorities: Cymbals, Triangles, Mallet
Instruments, etc. "You can't tune a cymbal!"

Resources: Percussive Arts Society - pas.org, "Percussion Solutions for Band Directors",
Facebook Group Follow @grant_mus on Instagram

Thank you for attending!