

Two- and Four-Mallet Rolling Clinic
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Title: Rollin', Rollin', Rollin' - Keep Them Mallets Rollin': Advice and resources for smooth two- and four-mallet rolls on keyboard percussion

Clinic Outline

- I. Introduction – play two-mallet arrangement of Danny Boy (arr. Gaines)
- II. Two-Mallet rolling
 - a. Stroke – light, fluid
 - i. Chromatic (less to think about; focus on stroke)
 - ii. Scalar
 - b. Mallet placement
 - i. Same bar – straddle resonator; decide which mallet should be closest to upper manual
 - ii. Upper manual – straddle the node
 - iii. No need to share the exact same beating spot
 - c. Sticking
 - i. lead R moving up the keyboard, lead L when moving down
OR
 - ii. lead with hand that has to travel the shortest distance
 - d. Double-stops vs alternating – how to start the roll
 - i. Depends on dynamic level, accents, and interval leap
 - ii. Try both and see what you prefer (no hard standard)
 - e. Musical considerations
 - i. phrasing markings – like a vocalist or reading a book
 - ii. tempo vs. rubato
 - iii. dynamics – written and unwritten
- III. Four-Mallet rolling
 - a. Five Steps of Hand to Hand, Double Vertical Rolls
 - i. Block Chords – Continuous Rhythm
 - ii. Block Chords – Broken Rhythm
 - iii. Split Chords – Continuous Rhythm
 - iv. Split Chords – Broken Rhythm “Heart of the Chorale”

- v. Real Time – Continuous Roll
- b. Other types of rolls
 - i. Ripple, independent, mandolin
 - ii. Understand application of all roll types
- IV. Final performance – The Lord's Prayer (arr. Gaines)