



Percussion Tips For Conductors: What Percussionists Wish We All Knew

2:00 PM - December 19, 2014
Scott Brown and Chester Phillips



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Overview

- Set Up
- Sound
- Score Study, Rehearsal & Performance
- A Few Parting Thoughts...

Set-Up Considerations

Consider The Physics

Some Instruments Speak Better Than Others
Articulate instruments closer to the center

Keep Some Distance In Low Frequencies
Timpani and Bass Drum can conflict

Cymbal Placement

March vs. General Percussion

Logistics Of It All

Minimize Movement Of People, Equipment & Music

Set-Up cont.

Clear Line Of Sight

- Performer to conductor
- Performer to music and conductor

Look Professional

- Black towels
- Mallets on stands
- Accessory instruments on stand

No "Right Way"

Sound

Percussion Tone

Just as important as woodwind and brass
Student mallet vs. professional

Variety Of Auxiliary Instruments

Upgrades make a difference
Cymbals (size and style)
Tambourine
Triangle and Beaters
Tone vs. Overtone

Sound cont.

Volume vs. Articulation

Variety in implement choice on all instruments

Tuning Drums

Timpani issues are bigger than we think
Bass drum big and boomy...then go from there

Score Study, Rehearsal & Performance

Do We Know Percussion Parts As Well As Wind Parts

Do we speak drum
Persichetti Symphony first 20 measures
We hear what we focus on

Rehearsal Tips

Rehearsal Tips

Teach The Melody
Get The Pitch Fixed
Move The Percussion Section
Copy The Music
Have Multiple Instruments
Who Are They Watching?
Teach Them To Breathe
Sit, Stand or Leave
Concert Black

Keep Them Learning...Not Just Busy

Part Doubling - *you decide*

Rotate Parts

Throughout the year
Each day while learning

Sectional Time

Percussion Ensemble

Parting Thoughts

Talk to and treat percussionists as musicians

Temperature change can effect pitch for concert percussion too

Tune drums and replace heads

A=440Hz. vs A=442Hz.

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Recommended Percussion Instruments and Mallets

Triangles

Sabian 06" Hand Hammered Triangle ~ \$74.95

Sabian 08" Hand Hammered Triangle ~ \$84.95

Tambourine

Grover 10" Double Row Tambourine (German Silver/Phosphor Bronze) ~ \$170.25

Snare Drum

5x14" metal or wood shell, and 6.5x14" metal or wood shell

- Majestic ProPhonic Snare Drum 6.5x14" Walnut ~ \$659.95
- Majestic ProPhonic Snare Drum 5x14" Aluminum ~ \$709.95

Bell Mallets

Innovative Percussion OS-5 (full sound) ~ \$25.75

Innovative Percussion OS-7 (bright) ~ \$22.50

Xylophone Mallets

Innovative Percussion IP902 (medium soft) ~ \$25.75

Innovative Percussion IP904 (hard) ~ \$25.75

Vibraphone Mallets

Innovative Percussion RS20 (medium) ~ \$34.95

Innovative Percussion RS30 (medium-hard) ~ \$34.95

Marimba Mallets

Innovative Percussion CGL3 (mid-low register) ~ \$34.95

Innovative Percussion CGL2 (mid-high register) ~ \$34.95

Bass Drum Mallets

Innovative Percussion CB5 (rollers) ~ \$34.95

Innovative Percussion CB3 (medium) ~ \$26.75

Recommended Literature

Following is a list of percussion ensemble pieces that fellow directors and myself have found to be successful with middle school and high school percussion ensembles. This is an incredibly small selection of the many great percussion compositions and arrangements available, but should be useful in starting a percussion ensemble library. Also included is a list of some prominent publishers of percussion ensemble music and their websites.

Key to abbreviations: V=vibes, X=xylophone, M=marimba, B=bells, C=chimes, Cro.=crotales, T=timpani, P=percussion, DS=drum set, PN=piano, GT=guitar, BG=bass guitar

Mixed Instrumentation

Title/Instrumentation	Composer/Arr.	Publisher	# Players	Grade
Noisy Treehouse V/X/M/P	Michael A. Hernandez	Drop 6	6-7	1
Polo's Candy Machine V/X/M/P	Michael A. Hernandez	Drop 6	6	1
Escape from Pirate Cove B/X/M/CH/2T/P	Jeremy Kane	Row-Loff	12	2
Maggpie's Groove	Chris Crockarell	Row-Loff	9	2
Casper's Lullaby B/2V/2M/BG/1T/P/Synth	James Horner/arr. Campbell	Row-Loff	11-12	3
Bayport Sketch B/V/C/X/2M/2T/P	Jared Spears	C.L. Barnhouse	7	3
Millennium B/X/M/V/4T/P	Chris Brooks	Row-Loff	14	3
Ceremonium B/C/X/M/2-3T/P	Jared Spears	C.L. Barnhouse	8	4
Stormbreak B/X/C/4T/P	Jim Casella	Tapspace	8	4
Now The Day is Over B/2V/2M/C/Cro/PN/T/P	John Willmarth	Tapspace	9	4
Big Country B/2V/3M/X/P/DS/BG	Bela Fleck/arr. Johannessen	Tapspace	8-10	4
Marching Season B/X/2M/V/Synth/5T/P	Yanni/arr. Chris Brooks	Row-Loff	12-15	4+
One Eyed Jacks V/M/2T/P	Mark Ford	C. Alan Pub.	6	4+
Teamwork B/V/C/1-2M/4T/P	Lynn Glassock	C. Alan Pub.	7	4+
Connected Forces B/V/C/2M/4T/P	Lynn Glassock	Southern Music	12	5
Shades of Glass B/3V/4M/C/Cro/Piano/4T/P	Dustin Schulze	Tapspace	14	5
Overture for Perc. Ensb. V/C/X/M/4T/P	John Beck	Kendor Music	8	5
Factions B/2V/3M/C/P	Lynn Glassock	C. Alan Pub.	10	5
No Exit V/C/3M/P	Lynn Glassock	Southern	8	5
Stained Glass B/X/Cro/4M/2V/5T/PN/P	David Gillingham	C-Alan Pub.	12	6
Ceiling Full of Stars B/2V/C/Cro./4M	Blake Tyson		9	6
Doors B/2V/Cro./4M/5T/P	Dave Hall	C-Alan Pub.	13	6
Promise Music B/2V/3M/C/T/P	Clif Walker	Innovative Perc.	9	6

Mallet Ensembles

Raspberry Tango 4M	Dustin Schulze	Tapspace	4	2
Over The Rainbow V/2-4M	Harold Arlen/arr. Eyler	Pioneer Perc.	5	2
Letter From Home B/X/V/2M/P	Pat Metheny/arr. Freytag	Row-Loff	12-14	3
Irish Tune From County Derry B/V/C/5M/P	Percy Grainger/arr. Ragsdale	Southern	9	3
Tinkle Toes X/3M	Percy Wenrich/Arr. David Eyler	Row-Loff	5	3
The Easy Winners X/2M	Scott Joplin/arr. Freytag	Row-Loff	5	3
Metric Lips X/V/2M	Bela Fleck/arr. Steinquest	Row-Loff	4	4
County Clare V/2M/X/BG	Bela Fleck/arr. Steinquest	RowLoff	6	4

Latin Ensembles

Oye Como Va B/X/V/2M/DS/P	Tito Puente/arr. Diane Downs	Hal Leonard	12	2
Katie's Bossa B/X/M/P	Chris Crockarell	Row-Loff	6-8	2
Maggpie's Groove B/V/M/3T/P	Chris Crockarell	Row-Loff	9	2
Bien Sabroso B/V/C/2M/Steel drms./PN/Horns/P/GT	Poncho Sanchez/arr. Mayor	Drop 6	10-11	3
Big Yellow Mambo B/V/M/X/C/2T	David Steinquest	Row-Loff	12	3+
El Caribe X/2M/V/P/DS/BG	Lalo Davila	Row-Loff	10-12	4
Allegre Muchacho B/V/M/X/C/2T	Alan Abel	Ludwig Music	6	4
Bailando La Soca X/1-2M/V/DS/P/BG	Julie Davila	Row-Loff	10-15	4
Mo Java V/X/2M/P/Opt. Steel Drums/BG	Lalo Davila	Row-Loff	7-8	4

Drum Ensembles

Battle of the Samurai P	Scott Snow	Robo-Percussion	5	2
Kumi-Daiko P	Scott Brown	Row-Loff	5+	2
Tiger's Blood P	Robert McCarthy	Row-Loff	7-19	2+
Breakdown P	Bradley Slayter	Tapspace	4	4
Sharpened Stick P	Brett Dietz	Keyboard Perc.	5	5
The Doomsday Machine P	Michael Burrirt	Innovative Perc.	4	5+

Novelty Ensembles

Me Tarzan - Bodies	Chris Crockarell	Row-Loff	8-12	3
Junk Funk - Trash cans, bottles, pipes, etc.	Mario Gaetano	C. Alan Pub.	5	3+
Brooms Hilda - Brooms	Chris Crockarell	Row-Loff	6	4
Stinkin Garbage - Trash Cans	Ed Argenziano	Row-Loff	4-32	4
Head Talk - pre-tuned drumheads	Mark Ford	Innovative Perc.	5	4
High Voltage - marching snares & tenors	Lalo Davila	Row-Loff	8	4+
Short Circuits - marching snares	Lalo Davila	Row-Loff	8	4+

Holiday Ensembles

Christmas Presence B/V/M/4T/P	arr. Chris Brooks	Row-Loff	10-12	2
Christmas Time is Here B/2M/1-2V/P/BG	Vince Guaraldi/arr. Brooks, Madill	Row-Loff	8-9	3

Publishers & Websites

C. Alan Publications	www.c-alanpublications.com
C. L. Barnhouse Co.	www.barnhouse.com
Drop 6 Media, Inc.	www.drop6.com
Innovative Percussion	www.innovativepercussion.com
Kendor Music Inc.	www.kendormusic.com
Ludwig Music Company	www.ludwigmusic.com
Row-Loff Productions	www.rowloff.com
Tap Space Publications	www.tapspace.com

Music Retailers

J.W. Pepper	www.jwpepper.com
Steve Weiss Music	www.steveweissmusic.com
Lone Star Percussion	www.lonestarpercussion.com