

Timpani Cheat Sheet

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SETUP/MAINTENANCE

- 32" on LEFT; 23" on RIGHT
- make pedals accessible by pointing at the player
- should be same distance from player for consistent beating spots



TUNING

Sources

- Nearby instrument
- Pitch pipe/tuning fork
- Interval knowledge
- The ensemble

4-Step Procedure

1. Get the pitch
2. Strike the drum w/ heel down
3. Gliss to note
4. Check the accuracy

STICKING

- Alternate as much as possible
- Odd # grouping: use the hand that's opposite the direction you're going (e.g. Going to the *right*, start with the *left* hand)
- Even # grouping: use the hand that matches the direction you're going (e.g. Going to the *right*, start with the *right* hand)

STYLE

Note Length

- If the note is long, move long. If the note is short, move short. Visually match the length of the sound.

Legato

- means "smooth and connected"
- Grip: relaxed
- Stroke: same speed down and up; don't stop the mallet; long look

Staccato

- means "separated, detached"
- Grip: firm
- Stroke: start low w/ quick upstroke; mallet should "pop" away from drum

Muffling

- Listen to the ensemble and match note lengths
- Hold mallet with thumb and index finger
- Back fingers should be strong
- Slightly press into head where you strike the drum