

# PERCUSSION CARE

## EQUIPMENT YOU MUST HAVE

- Practice Pad or Snare Drum
- Snare Sticks
- Stick Bag
- Tuning Key (Seniors and Intermediates)
- Pitch Pipe (for timpanists)



## CARE OF PERCUSSION

- Always bring your stick bag to class. You should be using your own mallets and sticks.
- The percussion section is the responsibility of all the percussionists. Please follow these guidelines to keep it tidy and prevent damage to the equipment:
- **Never place books, bags** etc. on any of the percussion instruments (timpani, bells, snare drum etc.). It damages the heads.
- Put all mallets, sticks, and incidental percussion **back in the percussion cabinet** at the end of every class. The percussion section should be tidy after each class. **This is part of your professional qualities mark!** Make sure that all the parts of the incidental percussion are together. For example the triangle must have the string attachment, the clip and the beater all together in the drawer; the mallets must be together in pairs etc.
- Keep **your music** in your folder, not floating around in the percussion area.
- If your sticks become badly chipped or broken, throw them away and purchase new ones. Badly chipped sticks affect the sound you make on the drums and chipped sticks can damage the drum heads.
- When you move percussion equipment, please move it properly. The snare head must be **removed from its stand** and stand and head **carried separately**. Lifting the timpani by the rim will bend the head of the timpani. Lift the timpani by the legs, **not the rim**. The **foot pedal** on the drum kit must be removed from the kit and moved separately.
- Hitting a drum head too hard dents the head of the drum. In some cases, it may cause a hole in the drum head. **Never hit a drum so hard that the head is damaged**. Heads wear out slowly but will last longer and play better if they are treated correctly.
- When you move percussion instruments for a trip, be sure to pack them properly. It is **your job** to know how to pack, dismantle and set-up the percussion equipment.

## WARMING UP BEFORE CLASS

- **Set up your section at the beginning of class.** Tune the timpani, bring out any incidental percussion you need for the music we are playing (triangles, claves etc.). Fix the height of the snare drum. Set-up music stands correctly.
- Please play at a **moderate volume during pre-class warm-up.** Loud playing distracts other players. Practice all your parts at a soft dynamic in the warm-up. If you need to practice the set or the snare drum, put a **practice pad** on the snare drum. Work on drum rudiments and the parts of the music we are studying. **Do not sit at the set and 'jam' during concert band warm-up.**

## ADJUSTING A SNARE DRUM

Adjust the snare stand so that the top of the head comes to your waist. Adjust the head so that it is angled with the highest part away from you while the lowest part is closest to you.

## THE TIMPANI

Timpani are very expensive to repair. The timpani should be set -up in a semi-circle around you with the lowest and biggest drum on your far left and the highest on your far right. Although the timpani are close together, **they should not be touching.**

## CHAIRS IN THE PERCUSSION SECTION

Percussionists play all percussion instruments **standing up.** However, so that you can rest when you are not playing, you may use the chairs placed in the percussion section. Please **do not add additional chairs** to the section as it causes clutter.

## BE READY

Although you have to wait for long periods when you play percussion you can stay involved in the rehearsal by practicing your parts on your leg. **Be ready to play when needed.** Please don't turn our rehearsal into a social session!

## INCIDENTAL PERCUSSION

Incidental percussion instruments are all the little instruments you play such as tambourines, triangles, claves, cow bells, castanets, jingle bells, shakers, etc. They must be put away properly, in their correct drawer after each class or they will get lost or broken.

## CLEAN UP

At the end of the class all percussion instruments should be put away properly. Even if you did not use everything, clean up as a SECTION. Your entire section will be marked on the condition you leave the section in. Please do not leave everything to one player to put away, work together!