

Bass drum

“This instrument is the second conductor when it comes to concert band marches”

Presented by

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INTRODUCTION

Concert percussionists (students, teachers, performers) focus their attention toward snare drum, keyboard percussion and timpani. While this is an important part of the concert percussion section, attention to the "accessory" percussion instruments, like tambourine, triangle, bass drum and cymbals, is imperative to become a total percussionist. Even the term "accessory" diminishes their importance in the concert percussion world. Therefore, I prefer the term "complementary" percussion instruments as they enhance the entire concert percussion

THE CHALLENGE

What instruments and gear should you have?

How do you play them?

What do you practice?

THE GOALS OF THIS CLINIC:

Gather information about the gear and what to buy

Learn and understand the basic techniques and how to play these instruments

Practice the beginning exercises and etudes, while offering more advanced etudes for the future

Most important

after the clinic, for you to have an enthusiasm to play, teach and practice these instruments on a more regular basis.

Bass Drum

“Control the sustain...make sure to know when/how to muffle; and when to let ring”

GEAR:

Bass Drum - Standard 36” in diameter x 16” in depth drum with suspended ring stand if possible.

Mallets - One general beater, one pair of soft beaters for rolls and a pair of hard/staccato beaters.

Two Medium Sized Black Towels - One to use as a tray stand for your mallets and the other to use as a muffling devise.

PLAYING TECHNIQUES:

Controlling the sustain is key – using your knee, left hand and/or a towel on the drum. However, know when to let it ring. Rarely muffle the non-beating side of the head.

Beating spots – three choices:

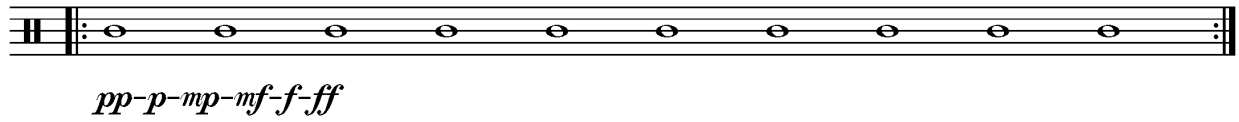
1. Center of head (most articulation)
2. Slightly off center (standard playing area)
3. Near the edge (rolls and thinner/lighter sounds).

Faster passages/notes, played with two mallets, drum positioned flat or vertical (more difficult).

Rolls – using two mallets, positioning each mallet near the edge for soft and getting closer to the center as you get louder.

WHAT TO PRACTICE:

Slowly



Bass Drum Etude

Keith Aleo

Moderato ♩=100



Bass Drum Etude - Advanced

Keith Aleo

Allegro ♩=120



Sources

Bass Drum

Pearl Concert Bass Drum 16"x36" – #PBE3616

Pearl Concert Bass Drum stand – #CBS38

Vic Firth Tom Gauger 1, #TG01 General

Vic Firth Tom Gauger 4, #TG04 Rollers (pair)

Vic Firth Tom Gauger #TG21 Chamois/Wood (pair)

Resources

Etudes/Playing Techniques:

Complimentary Percussion – Keith Aleo

The Art of Bass Drum and Cymbal Playing – Anthony Cirone & Garwood Whaley

Cinellen, Grosse Trommel und Anderes – Richard Hochrainer

Techniques of Playing Bass Drum, Cymbals and Accessories – Al Payson

Bass Drum Solos:

Qilyaun - John Luther Adams (may be performed by four percussionists, each playing a bass drum, or by a single percussionist with electronic delay)

The Deformation of Figures - Seth Cluett (solo bass drum and electronics)

Not Just Another Piece for Solo Bass Drum – Jacob Cooper

Music for Pure Waves, Bass Drums and Acoustic Pendulums - Alvin Lucier (three bass drums, instillation piece, could be adjusted to include soloist)

Nothing that is not there and the nothing that is – Peter Swendsen (solo bass drum and live electronics or playback)

Bass Drum Concerto and Ensembles

Nian 3 - Pius Cheung (trio for three bass drums)

Stèle – Gérard Grisey (duo for 2 bass drums)

Intentions - Eugene Novotney (Percussion Trio in four movements – movement IV. Bass drum with cymbal attachment)

Concerto for Bass Drum & Orchestra – Gabriel Prokofiev

A Man with a Gun Lives Here – Steve Snowdon (trio with one bass drum w/ other small percussion instruments)