

# Keyboard Percussion Clinic

Clinician – Dr. Don N. Parker, Fayetteville State University

Thursday February 9, 2012 3:45 – 5:30 p.m.

Seventy-First High School

Band Director, James Davis

## Four points that all percussionist want to develop when playing mallets

1. Sense of Time
2. Sense of Rhythm / Feel
3. Sense of Facility
  - a. Technique
  - b. Reading
  - c. Interpreting (Improvisation)
4. Intuitive sense

## Tone, Technique, and Time for the Mallet Percussionist

1. Tone
  - a. Proper Instrument Position - Height
  - b. Proper Playing Position - Body, Hands, and Arms
  - c. Proper Playing Area on Instrument
2. Technique (2 mallet playing)
  - a. 8-4-2-1 plus quality instrument
  - b. General playing approach (mallet stroke height)
  - c. Use of scales - Moving across the instrument
  - d. Rolling – Metered and Non-Metered Approach
  - e. Sight-reading – Folk Songs and Hymns
  - f. Crossover techniques from snare drum (rudiments)
  - g. Introducing patterns to practice that relate etudes and solos
3. Time
  - a. Repetition exercises relates to 8-4-2-1
  - b. Use of metronome at all times
  - c. Develop sense of feel - playing variety of styles

## Four Mallet Grip

1. Three types of four mallet grips playing (Traditional cross grip, Burton, Stevens/Musser Grip)
2. How to apply your two mallet playing while holding four mallets
3. Selecting the appropriate mallets – Choices relate to sound, length, head shape, and durability issues

## Four Stroke mallet

1. Developing the half full stroke for maximum flexibility and sound
2. Strokes to develop four mallet independence
  - a. double verticals
  - b. single alternating
  - c. single independent strokes

d. combination strokes)

## Suggested books and literature for the mallet percussionist

1. General Keyboard
  - a. Goldenberg, Morris. Modern School for the Xylophone, Marimba, & Vibraphone (Meredith Music Publishers)
  - b. Jolliff, Art. Solos for Marimba, Xylophone or Vibes. (CPP Belwin Inc.)
2. Xylophone
  - a. Eyles Randy ed. Green, George H. Instruction Course for Xylophone. (Meredith Music Publishers)
3. Marimba
  - a. Stevens, Leigh H. Method of Movement. (Marimba Productions Publishers)
  - b. Ervin, Karen. Contemporary Solos for 3 and 4 Mallets (Award Music Co.)
  - c. Whaley, Garwood. Four Mallet Technical Studies for Xylophone, Marimba, and Vibes (Joel Rothman Publications)
4. Vibraphone
  - a. Friedman, David. Vibraphone Technique. (Berklee Press Publishers)
  - b. Dowd, Charles. Velocity Warm-ups for Jazz Vibraphone. (CCP Belwin Inc.)
  - c. Delp, Ron. Vibraphone Technique – Four Mallet Chord Voicing. (Berklee Press Publishers)
5. Additional Sources of Music
  - a. Use of flute, cello, and oboe music
  - b. Use of hymnals to develop ensemble playing as well as four-mallet playing
  - c. Use of sight-singing books, elementary music/general music books, and fake books for developing the mallet percussionist reading for style and musicality

## Questions and Answers

**Dr. Don N. Parker** serves as Associate Professor of Music-Percussion and Music Coordinator at Fayetteville State University. Over the years he has appeared as an adjudicator, clinician, and guest artist throughout the country. Most recently he was featured at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Tarleton State University Percussion Festival in Stephenville, Texas with the Third Coast Percussion Ensemble and Jeff Moore. He performs with the Fayetteville Jazz Orchestra and Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra since 2003 as a featured soloist and serves as principal percussionist. He also has performs with his jazz vibes and piano duo, The Haydon/Parker Duo, and his trumpet/percussion duo, Double Take, which has released its second CD entitled “Atmospheres” featuring commissioned works. He is the director for the Summer Music Camps @ FSU.

Prior to FSU, Dr. Parker taught at the University of Missouri - St. Louis, Chadron State College (Nebraska) and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Dr. Parker has a B.M. in Performance and Music Business from DePauw University and a M.M. and D.M.A. in Percussion Performance from the University of Texas in Austin. Dr. Parker has endorsements with Sabian Cymbals, Mapex Drums, Mike Balter Mallets, Regal Tip Sticks, Remo World Percussion, LP Music Group, and Majestic Percussion. For more information, contact Dr. Parker at:

FSU Website: [www.uncfsu.edu/arts/faculty/parker.htm](http://www.uncfsu.edu/arts/faculty/parker.htm)

PI Productions: <http://www.parkerlinchmusic.com/>

Personal Website: [http://www.don.parkerlinchmusic.com/DNP\\_Site/Welcome.html](http://www.don.parkerlinchmusic.com/DNP_Site/Welcome.html)

E-Mail: [dparker@uncfsu.edu](mailto:dparker@uncfsu.edu)

Phone: 910-672-1253

Majestic Percussion Instruments

Website: [http://www.jupitermusic.com/jbi\\_index.aspx](http://www.jupitermusic.com/jbi_index.aspx)

Mike Balter Mallets  
Website: [www.mikebalter.com](http://www.mikebalter.com)