

# Timpani Basics Clinic

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

Thursday February 23, 2011 3:45 – 5:30 p.m.  
Seventy-First High School  
Band Director, James Davis

## Introduction to the Timpani

- a. History
- b. Equipment and construction
  1. Spring Tension Pedal
  2. Clutch Tension Pedal
  3. Hand Crank
  4. Ratchet Pedal
- c. Ranges and sizes (32", 29", 26", 23", 20")
- d. Types of heads - Calf and Plastic (wide variety)
  1. Basic maintenance
  2. Chemicals used for cleaning
  3. Covers
- e. Tuning method
  1. Using pitch pipe, tuning fork or your ear (solfege system)
  2. Sing, Tap, and Tune (STT)
- f. Mallet choices – Legato, General, and Staccato
- g. Instrument position, playing area, and posture

## Timpani Technique

- a. Grips (French, German, American, and Hinger)
- b. The Basic Strokes
  1. Legato and Staccato
  2. Stroke Articulation
- c. Rolls
  1. Single stroke and roll speed
  2. Metered and non metered rolls
- d. Repetition exercises for technique building - using 8-4-2-1 system
- e. Practice techniques for 2,3, & 4 drum parts - incorporate style, time, and reading
- f. Application of snare drum and keyboard technique with timpani
- g. Special techniques on timpani
  1. Dampening
  2. Muffling
  3. Sticking
  4. Glissandos
  5. Pedaling

## Suggested Timpani Books:

Goodman, Saul. Modern Method of Timpani. (Mills Music Publishers)

Whaley, Garwood. Musical Studies for the Intermediate Timpanist.  
(Meredith Music Publishers)

Carroll, Raynor. Exercises, Etudes, and Solos for the Timpani. (Batterie Music)

## 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)