

Timpani Crash Course

Trey Cross

Play each exercise on any 2 drums, with any starting pitch tuned to a perfect 4th or perfect 5th. Each exercise has been written in A since that is a fairly comfortable range of the 29" and 26" drums.

1. Legato and Staccato Strokes

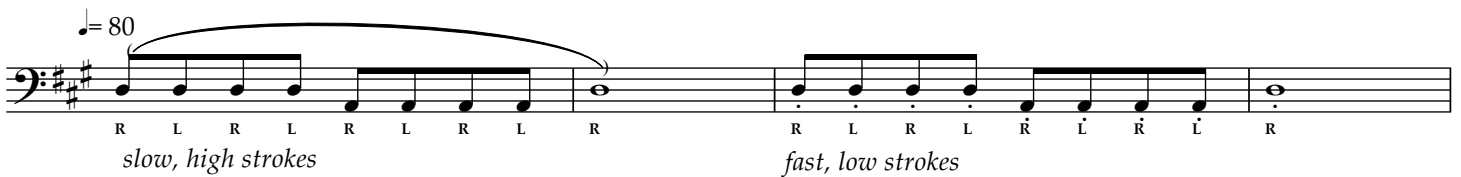
$\text{♩} = \text{SLOW}$

Timpani 

Level 4 stick height, but play as softly as possible by moving the mallet **slowly**. This slow moving stroke turns into what we call the **legato** stroke in timpani world.

Timpani 

Level 1 stick height, but play as loudly as possible by moving the mallet **very fast**. This fast moving stroke turns into what we call the **staccato** stroke in timpani world.

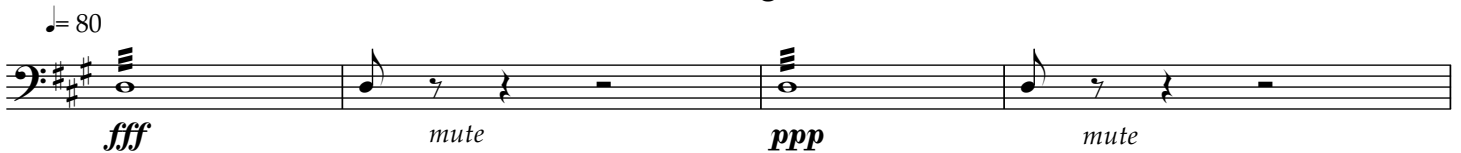
Timpani 

2. Muting the drums

Timpani 

Mute the drum with the middle, ring, and pinky fingers after striking the drum. Try to mute the same spot you hit.

3. Rolling


Timpani 

Play with wrist strokes, then try using only fingers.

4. Cross-overs

Timpani 

In this context, the "+" means to cross your right hand over the left to strike the larger drum

Timpani 

repeat until you tap out

5. Pedaling

Timpani 

Play on piano or have students roll on marimba while the player pedals each note