

Dynamic Solos for Timpani

By Brian Slawson

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Single Drum Strut

When playing timpani, as with snare drum and mallet instruments, using wrist strokes while keeping sticks or mallets low to the playing surface is recommended. When the hands are lifted higher, the margin for error is greatly increased. Maintaining a secure "T"-shaped fulcrum (balancing point) between the thumb and index finger will enable the mallet to bounce off the surface in a controlled manner with little resistance. Play the piece once, starting with the right hand, and again, starting with the left. Alternate your stickings throughout and strive for an even tone from hand to hand.

D

Andante ♩ = 90



Doubleheader

Although the rhythmic content in *Doubleheader* is nearly identical to that of *Single Drum Strut*, the figures are now dispersed between two drums. As a result, stickings must be carefully considered in order to move smoothly from drum to drum. A pencil can be a musician's best friend. Carefully marking your preferred stickings in the music will enable you to practice in a consistent manner, thus avoiding repeated mistakes and unnecessary frustration. Instilling proper practice habits helps to keep a potentially challenging process efficient and positive.

A - D

Maestoso ♩ = 104

The musical score for "Doubleheader" is written in bass clef, 4/4 time, with a tempo marking of Maestoso ♩ = 104. The score consists of eight staves of music, each beginning with a measure number and a dynamic marking. The dynamics are: *f* (measures 1-4), *f* (measures 5-8), *mp* (measures 9-12), *f* (measures 13-16), *mf* (measures 17-20), *mp* (measures 21-24), *ff* (measures 25-28), and *ff* (measures 29-32). The final measure (32) includes an accent (>) and a ritardando (*rit.*) marking.