

GROVER

PRO PERCUSSION®

Percussion Primer *by Neil Grover*

TRIANGLE

SELECTION

The triangle should be the highest, non-pitched member of the percussion family. Sizes range from 4" to 10"; however, the best size for concert playing is between 6" and 9". A larger triangle provides a bigger internal working area for easier execution; however, it is heavier and more difficult to control. Triangles are made from steel, brass or bronze, each producing a different sonority.

SUSPENSION

A triangle needs to be suspended so that it vibrates unencumbered and freely, allowing maximum overtone resonance to be produced. It is very important that the instrument be suspended using a very thin, yet strong, mono-filament line. Fishing line works great and is also inexpensive. The use of string, cable, shoelaces, etc. will effectively dampen the resonance of any triangle. Using a second "catch line" will prevent the triangle from falling to the floor, should the primary line break. A light "triangle clip" will allow the triangle to be mounted on a music stand when not in use.

STROKE

The triangle should never be played when mounted on a music stand. It should always be held at eye level and struck on the bottom leg with a motion that "pushes away" the bottom leg. This method will produce the maximum overtone sonority. A triangle sound full of overtones will blend with other instruments. Remember, a triangle is a non-pitched instrument and should have a very lush array of overtones, it should not sound like a bell!

BEATERS

Beaters are available in a large variety of sizes (diameters), materials and shapes. For general playing, a set of at least three steel beaters in various diameters and a length of 8-9" is recommended. Various size beaters will produce different sonorities. As in all percussion instruments, a smaller beater produces a thinner sound while a heavier beater creates a big sonority. Generally speaking, thinner beaters are used when playing at softer dynamic levels.