

CARING FOR PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS

The school will provide you with percussion instruments for use only at the school and at band performances. You are required to provide your own percussion instruments for use and practice at home.

Instruments are to be looked after appropriately by Band Members. Any damage to or malfunction of an instrument or equipment must be brought to the attention of the Conductor or a committee member as soon as possible. The best way to learn about setting up your gear, general cleaning and maintenance is to have your tutor demonstrate. Below are some simple tips to help you.

DUE TO THE COMPLEX AND DELICATE CONSTRUCTION OF INSTRUMENTS, NEVER ATTEMPT ANY ADJUSTMENTS OR REPAIRS ON YOUR OWN. GET AN EXPERT OR, IF IT'S SCHOOL EQUIPMENT, NOTIFY A COMMITTEE MEMBER.

GENERAL:

NOISE: Drums and percussion instruments can be noisy. So when playing in a band make sure that you carefully observe the instructions of the conductor to know exactly when and how loud to play. Never bang your drum for the sake of banging your drum. Good percussionists are those who show great respect to the importance of dynamics (i.e. softs and louds).

PROTECT YOUR INSTRUMENT: if a conductor has allocated you an instrument to play it will be your responsibility to help set it up, to help pack it away and to make sure no one else plays with it without the conductor's approval.

DRUM STICKS: You are required to provide and use your own drum sticks for all rehearsals and performances. You will need to replace them if they are damaged or broken. Drum sticks can be purchased fairly cheaply at most music stores. Check with your tutor as to any preferences s/he may have concerning the design or brand which may be appropriate for your needs.

DRUM STICKS AND PERCUSSION MALLETS ARE INTENDED ONLY FOR USE ON THE RELEVANT EQUIPMENT FOR WHICH THEY ARE DESIGNED. DO NOT USE THEM FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE.

MANY PERCUSSION MALLETS ARE DESIGNED WITH A "HEAD" MADE OF SOFT FELT OR PLASTIC. EVEN THOUGH THE Mallet IS MEANT TO BE USED FOR HITTING, THEY ARE VERY SENSITIVE AND CAN DAMAGE EASILY. THEY CAN ALSO BE EXPENSIVE TO REPLACE. TREAT THEM GENTLY. IF YOU DAMAGE, YOU REPLACE.

KEEP IT CLEAN: Don't eat, or drink soft drinks while you play or practice. Food particles, sugar and other foreign materials, when spilt onto an instrument (especially the skin of a drum) are difficult to remove and eventually will affect the playing quality.

Just remember, learning to read music and play an instrument is a challenging and rewarding experience. If your instrument is cared for and maintained, it will sound better and the satisfaction you get will greatly increase.

BAND COMMITTEE