

**CLINIC SYNOPSIS  
FOR**

***DEVELOPING MALLET PERCUSSIONISTS FROM LESSON ONE  
THROUGH COLLEGE: Keyboards are the KEY!***

**BY**

**DR. STEPHEN CRAWFORD**

This clinic is designed to *'help teachers teach'*, particularly the non-percussionist band director. It will address inherent barriers and obstacles that hinder successful mallet percussion education. These barriers include "instrument envy", dropout, affordable availability of "real" keyboard percussion instruments, keyboard percussion deficiencies, lack of keyboard percussion role models, and general apathy for mallet percussion.

This clinic is designed to provide solutions in overcoming these obstacles such as recruitment techniques, available literature, intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, and the creation of ensembles.

**OUTLINE**

- I. Discussion of the keyboard percussion challenges in schools**
  - A. Having a "real" instrument
    - 1. Bells vs. marimba/xylophone
    - 2. Instrument envy
    - 3. Size and the student percussionist
    - 4. Band warm-ups and the percussionist
- II. Keyboard Training**
  - A. The obvious importance of private lessons
  - B. Addressing the instrument
    - 1. Stance
    - 2. Grip
    - 3. Stroke
  - C. Piano vs. keyboard percussion
    - 1. Should percussion have piano backgrounds?
    - 2. How early is early?
  - D. Incorporating music theory into daily routines
    - 1. A key a week- "A la Gary Foster"
    - 2. Actual examples that work
      - a. circle of fifths
      - b. scale and harmonic studies

- E. Reading and its inherent problems
  - 1. No physical contact
  - 2. “Flying the Hood”
  - 3. Practice (only on the days you eat)
    - a. routine
    - b. setting goals/duration

### III. Care and Feeding of your Percussionist

#### A. Recruitment & Testing

#### B. Motivation

- 1. Intrinsic
- 2. Extrinsic

#### C. Forming the percussion ensemble

- 1. What does the drum line do after marching band?
- 2. Keyboard ensemble & percussion ensemble

#### D. What can I do?

- 1. Take lessons from a percussionist
- 2. Play in ensemble (remember where you came from)
- 3. Have your students join P.A.S
- 4. Encouragement of manufacturers & retailers to provide quality and affordable instruments
- 5. Provide quality and fun percussion literature

***For a complete copy of Dr. Crawford’s “Building A Better Percussion Program” brochure and to inquire about a local Building A Better Percussion Program clinic by Dr. Crawford, visit your local Ross Mallet Instruments dealer.***