

# Duff Timpani

## master class June 8 - 12, 2015

34th Annual

**Jim Atwood**, director  
Hosted by **Timothy Adams, Jr.** and  
**Kimberly Toscano Adams**

Timpanist  
Cloyd Duff



In June 1982, Cloyd Duff presented his first Timpani Masterclass. In the years since, the class has become an annual event, attracting timpanists from across the country and around the world. Students and teachers, amateurs and professionals alike, have attended the class to learn about the Duff school of playing . . . an approach to the instrument that earned the late Cloyd Duff a reputation as one of the finest timpanists of the 20th century, known the world over for his beautiful, singing sound and his flawless musicianship.

The class covers every aspect of the Cloyd Duff school, from the fundamentals of technique to the most advanced orchestral repertoire. The traditions of this great class have been preserved and several new sessions added: the specifics of instrument maintenance, stick making, calf head tucking, changing and clearing heads, and a new week long audition program. In 1999, Cloyd Duff asked Jim Atwood, his assistant at these classes for many years, to take over the direction of the masterclass program, saying: "Under Jim's direction, I expect that this class will continue to flourish for another two decades."

Tim Adams and Tom Freer both rejoin the the faculty this summer for the 33rd anniversary of the Cloyd Duff Timpani Masterclass.

### Monday morning 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Lecture

- Complete study of the fundamentals of the Cloyd Duff school of timpani playing.
- Placement and evolution of the instrument.
- German and French grip, proper holding of the stick.
- Proper stroke technique.
- Wrists vs. the arm, size of the blows.
- Introduction of full range of volume, *pp* - *ff*.
- Long tonal legato strokes.
- Staccato strokes and technique.
- Touch and how to achieve it.
- Styles and sounds, and how these will apply.
- Interpreting the styles of different composers.
- Complete study of the grace notes.

Questions and answers throughout all the lectures are encouraged!

### Monday afternoon 3:00 - 5:30 p.m

- Maintenance and storage of instruments.
- Discussion of calf and plastic heads.
- Solving the problems of controlling calf heads in all kinds of weather.
- Winter, heat, arid and humid conditions, damp weather, and rain
- Conditions to be met in concert halls.
- Demonstration of tucking a calf skin head... the class participates.
- Question and answer period for solving any timpani maintenance problems.

AFTERNOON MASTERCLASS SESSIONS:  
ADVANCED PERFORMERS

### Tuesday morning 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Lecture

- Playing ranges of each timpani and why.
- More discussion and recommendation of calf and plastic heads.
- Ear and tuning problems.
- Hand-muffling the timpani and the use of suede pads.
- Cross sticking: Advantages and disadvantages.
- Counting rests.
- Careful preparation and marking of timpani parts

### Tuesday afternoon 3:00 - 5:30 p.m.

AFTERNOON MASTERCLASS SESSIONS :  
ADVANCED PERFORMERS

### Wednesday morning 9:30 - 12:30 p.m. | Lecture

- Complete study of rolls.
- Special roll techniques.
- Examples from the repertoire.
- Complete study of clearing heads
- Correction and maintenance.
- How to develop your ability to clear heads
- Full discussion of timpani sticks.
- Discussion of all the variables in timpani stick making.
- Styles, makes, characteristics of different stick types.
- Stick covering techniques.
- Discussion of stick weights and tonal properties.
- Question and answer period for any timpani stick problems.
- Examples from the class.

### Wednesday afternoon 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Audition Masterclass, Part 1: Timpani audition preparation with specific instruction on how to practice more effectively and efficiently for auditions, performance of standard timpani audition repertoire, and demonstration of personal audition preparation methods.

AFTERNOON MASTERCLASS SESSIONS :  
ADVANCED-PLUS PERFORMERS

### Thursday morning 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Lecture

- Complete study of rhythmic interpretation.
- Working for rhythmic clarity at all dynamics.
- Rhythmic interpretation applied to different periods and composers.
- Stick choices to enhance both tone and definition
- Special muffling techniques to enhance clarity.
- Timpani anatomy: Detailed instruction on timpani of all makes and models including basic maintenance, trouble shooting and repair.
- Discussion of different timpani makes: Advantages and disadvantages.
- Results of different-shaped kettles.

### Thursday afternoon 3:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Audition Masterclass, Part 2: In-depth masterclass on audition performance, including instruction focusing on performing consistently and more musically in auditions, and further performances of timpani audition repertoire.

AFTERNOON MASTERCLASS SESSIONS :  
ADVANCED-PLUS PERFORMERS

### Friday morning 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Lecture

- Study of Duff's recordings and a special video presentation.
- Discussion of symphony orchestra experience.
- Special problems in recording sessions.
- Mature ability, finesse, and musicianship.
- Timpani demonstration and display of repertoire.

### Friday afternoon 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

AFTERNOON MASTERCLASS SESSIONS :  
ADVANCED-PLUS PERFORMERS

5:30 p.m. | End-of-class gathering



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