



# Timpani Setup

by Mark Dorr



## *Fundamental Setup of the Timpani*

- Be clearly able to see the timpani, music, and conductor at all times.
- An imaginary straight line of sight should exist between the conductor and the player which should also pass through the music stand and the center of the timpani setup.
- Drums should be placed in a semi-circle or wide arc close to each other but not touching.
- Adjust the drum configuration to the body, not the other way around.
- Pedals should be pointing in toward the player. Correct playing area (beating spot) can be played upon by rotating from the waist and lower back to each of the drums, not by radically shifting the feet.
- The optimum arm position for each drum is with the elbows out away from the body and slightly forward of the shoulder.
- Surface of drum heads should be located slightly below waist level.
- In the United States, it is common to place the smallest diameter drum of the setup to the far right and the largest drum to the far left.

## Standard Timpani Setup

