

# **Using Technology to Improve Concert and Marching Percussion Education**

*North Carolina Music Educators Conference*

*November 9, 2013*

**Tracy Wiggins**

**Director of Percussion Studies**

**The University of North Carolina at Pembroke**

- I. Rhythm and Timing: New Trends in Metronomes
  - a. Body Beat Sync
  - b. YouTube/iTunes/Google Play Music as Metronomes
  - c. Apps Are the Cool New Thing
- II. Analysis of Performance
  - a. Audacity/Logic etc. for Visual and Audio Analysis
  - b. Amazing Slow Downer
  - c. Coaches Eye
- III. Marching Instruction
  - a. Drill Book <http://www.drillbooknext.com/>
  - b. Basketball Coaching Apps
- IV. The Electronic Front/Percussion Ensemble
  - a. Cost
  - b. Recommendations of Gear to Begin
  - c. DTX 12 for Dummies!

# Cost Breakdown Analysis

*(Prices from Steve Weiss Music for Yamaha Gear and McCormick's for Audio Gear)*

1 4.3 Octave Marimba with Rack \$5,049.95

1 Vibraphone with Rack \$4944.95

1 Set of Bells \$559.95

1 Xylophone with Rack \$3399.95

Chimes \$7909.95

Drumset \$899.99 (Yamaha Stage Custom)

4 Timpani \$8484.95 (Yamaha Fiberglass Series)

4 Concert toms \$1084.95

Drumset Rack \$369.95

Concert Snare Drum \$559.95

Cymbals Approximately \$2000 for Variety of Sounds and Colors

Concert Bass Drum \$729.95 plus \$659.95 for Stand

Tam Tam \$389.95 plus \$129.95 for Stand

Timpani and Drumset Carts \$1445 each

Additional Cymbal Mounts etc. \$30-60 each

DXR15 Speakers \$799.99

Microphone Setup \$149.95 each for Mallets; \$325 for timpani

Malletkat \$2011 for 3 octave; \$3588 for 3 octave with Motif Sounds; \$4199 for 4 octave with Motif Sounds

Rack for Malletkat \$478

Yamaha DTX12 \$700

Tracy Wiggins is coordinator of the percussion program at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke. He has a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the HARTT School, University of Hartford. Dr. Wiggins holds a Masters Degree in Percussion Performance from the University of New Mexico and a Bachelors Degree in Music Education from Oklahoma State University. He has done post-masters work at The Ohio State University. In addition to his teaching duties he serves as principal timpanist for The Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra, principal timpanist of the Florence Symphony and timpanist for the Carolina Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra. He is also a member of the tuba and percussion duo Peruba. Dr. Wiggins is also the percussion caption head for the Carolina Gold Drum and Bugle Corps.

Dr. Wiggins varied musical interests are reflected in his performance credits, highlights of which include: orchestral work with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra (extra), The Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra, Florence Symphony Orchestra, The New Mexico Symphony Orchestra, the Waterbury (CT) Symphony, the New Britain (CT) Symphony, the Westerville (Ohio) Civic Symphony and as principal percussionist for the Santa Fe Symphony; solo appearances at the University of Maryland at College-Park, Tarleton State University, the University of New Mexico's Composers Symposium, Oklahoma State University, Samford University, The Hartt School, Western Connecticut State University, The University of Alabama-Birmingham, The 2004 and 2009 Percussive Arts Society International Conventions and The Ohio State University; percussion and drumset work for "Cathy Rigby is Peter Pan" and the touring Broadway musical "Ragtime" with the Birmingham Broadway Series, The Birmingham Operaworks production of "Trouble in Tahiti," and the Birmingham Theater production of "Kiss of the Spider-woman"; concerto appearances with the Hartt School, University of New Mexico, Oklahoma State University and Ohio State University percussion ensembles, the Hartt Contemporary Players, the Oklahoma State University Symphony Orchestra and the Samford University Wind Ensemble; chamber music performances at the North American Saxophone Alliance Northeastern Conference, with "Performance 20/20, and he has twice performed on the Percussive Arts Society's "New Music" day as a member of the University of New Mexico percussion ensemble; marching percussion with the Freelancers and Black Gold Drum and Bugle Corps, as well as instructing the DCI Division III World Championship finalist Delta Brigade, Northern Aurora Drum and Bugle Corps, and the Carolina Gold Senior Drum and Bugle Corps; ethnic percussion with the Hartt School, Samford University and Ohio State University steel drum bands, the Hartt Handance Ensemble, and the Hartt and Ohio State University African Drumming Groups.

His teachers have included Johnny Almendra, Tricia Bovenschen, Wayne Bovenschen, Michael Bump, Joe Galeota, Ralph Hardimon, Gregg Koyle, Alexander Lepak, Christopher Shultis, Ben Toth, Glen Velez and Nancy Zeltsman. Tracy has also performed on masterclasses for Evelyn Glennie, Nebojsa Zivkovic and Robert Van Sice. Dr. Wiggins has premiered works by composers David Macbride, Thomas DeLio, Daniel Davis and others.

He is an artist/endorser for Yamaha Percussion, Black Swamp Percussion, Innovative Percussion. Evans Drum Heads and Sabian Cymbals. Tracy Wiggins is a member of the Percussive Arts Society, Music Educators National Conference, The College Music Society, Kappa Kappa Psi and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. <http://www.tracywiggins.com/>