

**Tone - Pitch - Rhythm - Accuracy - Stickings -  
Dynamics - Musicality**  
**By Christopher Deane**

*The Seven Parameters for a Good College Timpani  
Audition.*

**Tone** - Choose your mallets and your strokes.

**Pitch** - Study this separately to know what the “tune” of the etude is. There is always a melody on the timpani.

**Rhythm** - Play the rhythms of your etude on a pad so your focus is on accuracy. Use a metronome to be sure you are keeping a steady tempo when you practice. Memorize how the rhythm feels.

**Accuracy** - Make sure the rhythms are exactly what is written on the page. Record yourself and listen a number of times to be sure you got everything correct.

**Stickings** - Choosing your stickings and practicing them can give you an insurance policy for a good performance.

**Dynamics** - This is often one of the most challenging aspect of a good performance. Practice every phrase separately so you can be sure you are achieving the proper dynamics. This can make your performance special.

**Musicality** - Shape each note grouping so that there is direction to the music. If all of the notes are exactly the same then there is no phrasing, no singing. Try singing the music and then copy how you sang it in your performance.