

# Timpani : FUNDamentals

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## **Instrument Ranges**

- The standard (playable) range for each drum is a P5 (Perfect Fifth)  
- this can be extended to a 6<sup>th</sup>, but is not recommended

The diagram illustrates five timpani drums arranged in two rows. Each drum is represented by a circle containing its size and range. Below each circle is a musical staff in bass clef showing the range of notes. The drums are:

- 32" D-A (left side)
- 29" F-C (top middle)
- 26" Bb-F (top right)
- 23" D-A (bottom right)
- 20" F-C (top right)

## **Set-up**

- American Set-up (preferred) – high drum on the right
- German Set-up (less common) – high drum on left
- Position the middle two drums first (26" and 29")
- Place the stool appropriately (and the music stand)
  - putting your hands in the right playing spots
  - making sure that the pedals are comfortably in reach
- Position the outer drums (using the same criteria as above)

## **Playing Spots**

- Usually about 3"-4" in from the rim
- To get a consistent sound, make sure that each hand is equidistant from the rim

