

# BEST PRACTICES PERCUSSION

## SNARE

- Use a scoop to help project a distinctive snare sound.
- Use the Evans System Blue top head co-developed by The Blue Devils. This provides a softer feel on the hands, without losing projection or tone. Players love the feel of this head.
- Tune the top head a little lower than the bottom head.
- Use the Evans MX5 for the bottom head. This head is amazing. It holds the pitch and can be tightened sufficiently to produce an excellent snare response.
- Tune the bottom head in the range from C# to D.
- Tune the guts before every show. Keep the center four guts a little looser than the outside guts — this helps for a nice snare sound at softer dynamics.

## TENOR

- Use Evans System Blue heads — 6", 8", 10", 12", 13", 14"
- The tuning interval can change occasionally, but typical tuning is around a minor third between drums.

## BASS

- Use Evans MX1 heads.
- The internal muffling system that comes with the heads is perfect.
- Do not use all of the muffling. Leave out two sections of muffling across from each other.
- Tune the top four basses a major triad apart and tune the #5 bass below that by about a fourth.

## HEADS

- Wax all bearing edges with a piece of candle wax every time a head is changed.
- Lube all tension rods with some oil or vaseline every time a head is changed.

