

## International Drum Month - Theresa McCoy Spotlight

Our percussion section finale brings a lovely interview with Theresa McCoy, our principal timpanist.



### **Could you tell me a little bit about yourself?**

I live with my husband, Sean, just outside Jacksonville. We have three grown daughters—all of them off on their own adventures. I got my music degree in Music Performance at CSU, Northridge...a long time ago! After a decade of free-lancing music in the Los Angeles area, Sean & I moved back to the Rogue Valley to start and raise a family. In addition to filling my life with as much music as possible, I work as the Director of Marketing & IT for KDP Certified Public Accountants, LLP.

### **What brought or inspired you to pursue percussion? If you'd like to share one of your favorite pieces of music as well, I'd like to know!**

I didn't really set out to "pursue" timpani. I think it pursued me! While living in Los Angeles, I had the opportunity to study with some really fine timpanists (William Kraft and Mitchell Peters, both timpanists with the L.A. Philharmonic,

as well as Karen Ervin.) They recommended me to some local orchestras and launched me into that world.

### **What do you enjoy most about being with the Rogue Valley Symphony?**

I really enjoy the experience of creating incredible music with my peers and sharing it with our audience. That time in the concert hall is sacred and inspiring. The synergy between the musicians and audience is something that only happens in a moment with all of us in space and time together.

### **What do you do when you're not playing music i.e. what are your hobbies or interests?**

I am a voracious reader, I garden, I love cycling, and I dabble at philosophy and art.

### **Finally, one unusual fact, story, or tidbit about you or your instrument?**

Timpani were originally an instrument of warfare. They were played in battle to strike fear in the hearts of the enemy. Perhaps that explains why some have told me that timpani mallets are a weapon in my hands.

