

Mallet Selection Guide for Vic Firth Iain Moyer Signature Series

*This serves as a guide for selecting mallets from the VF Iain Moyer Signature Series.
Mallets are listed in order of **frequency of use** within normal pageantry environments.*

Marimba Mallets (multi-tonal):

1. M273- Hard to very hard:

The most frequently used marimba mallet during two summers of testing.
This mallet is a go-to for “inside marimba players” and speaks great in the middle and upper registers of the marimba.
Is harder than a M183 and M263 and is softer than a M184 and M264.

2a. M272- Medium-hard to hard:

The most versatile mallet in the series as it spans the entire marimba range.
A great mallet to put in the hand of your “outside marimba players”, particularly when they are playing down the octave from the “inside players”.
Similar in hardness to an M182, or 231.

2b. M271- Medium to medium-hard

A great mallet for ballads and expressive material.
Soft enough to be lyrical, but hard enough to project virtuosic passages.
Similar in hardness to an M261 or M171.

3. M270- Medium-soft to medium

Excellent for chorale-like textures and legato passages.
Non-virtuosic moving lines sound great with this mallet as well.
Similar in hardness to an M230 or M181.

Vibraphone Mallets (birch-handles):

1. M276- Hard

The most frequently used vibraphone mallet during one summer of testing.
This is a go-to mallet for anything in the top 2 octaves of the vibraphone.
Excellent as an “inside vibraphone mallet”,
Similar in hardness to a M188, M267 or M235.

Excellent in the Top 2/3rds of the Marimba

2. M275- Medium-hard

Sounds great across the entire range of the instrument.
Excellent as an “outside vibraphone mallet”, particularly in 8vb situations.
Similar in hardness to a M187, M266 or M234.

Excellent across the entire range of the Marimba

3a. M277- Very hard

A brilliant mallet that speaks sharply in the upper register of the vibraphone.
Creates an impressive celesta or glockenspiel-like texture from the vibes.
Similar in hardness to a M189.

Excellent in the top 2 octaves of the Marimba

3b. M274- Medium

A warm mallet that speaks particularly well in the bottom 2/3rds of the vibes.
Great for ballads and expressive material.
Similar in hardness to a M186, M265, or M233.

Excellent in the Bottom 2/3rds of the Marimba