



Field Report: Interspecies Acoustic Experiment

Location: Global Wildlife Center, Folsom, LA (Wagon Loading Area)

Date/Time: January 29, 2026 | 10:30 PM

Subject: E.D. White Indoor Percussion Ensemble

Objective: To observe the behavioral responses of giraffes and deer to varying frequencies and decibel levels from the 2026 competitive show repertoire.

I. Instrumentation & Sound Palette

The ensemble utilized a full indoor percussion orchestration, blending organic wood and metal textures with advanced synthesis:

- Front Ensemble: 5 Marimbas, 4 Vibraphones, 1 Pedal Glockenspiel.
- Battery: 3 Snare Drums, 2 Tenors (Quads), 4 Bass Drums, 6 Marching Cymbals.
- Electronics: 88-key and 61-key controllers running MainStage (125+ mood samples, sub-bass textures, and atmospheric layers).
- World Percussion: 5 Medium Djembes.
- Auxiliary: Drum Set and Rack Percussion.

II. Observations & Results

Phase	Musical Elements	Animal Reaction
Phase 1: Sub-Sonics	Sub-bass notes and low-frequency electronic textures (Mvt. 2).	High Interest: Giraffes approached the fenced area immediately. They appeared to "feel" the low vibrations, showing curiosity rather than fear.
Phase 2: Additive Melodic	Marimbas and Vibraphones added to the electronic bed.	Increased Engagement: More giraffes gathered. The warm, resonant wood of the marimbas seemed to maintain a calm, inquisitive atmosphere.
Phase 3: Full Impact	Introduction of the Battery (Drums) and high-velocity percussion.	Mixed Alertness: The animals remained present but became more alert as the volume and transient peaks increased.

Phase	Musical Elements	Animal Reaction
Phase 4: The Release	Final release of Movement 2 (Forté-piano to Forte release).	Flight Response: The sudden high-frequency "snap" and volume peak caused an immediate retreat. The deer fled first, followed by the giraffes.

III. Conclusion

The experiment suggests a clear threshold for wildlife comfort regarding synthesized and acoustic percussion. While low-frequency vibrations and mellow resonance act as an attractant or a point of curiosity for giraffes, high-decibel transients (specifically the sharp "crack" of a snare or a forte release) trigger a natural flight instinct.

This experience marks a historic moment for the E.D. White program, successfully bridging the gap between our 2026 show concept and the natural world.
