A FRESH APPROACH TO Technique & Musicianship with

FOUR MALES

24 Progressive Solos for Marimba

DAVID SKIDMORE



VIDEO LIBRARY WITH LESSONS AND SOLO PERFORMANCES!



Written by: David Skidmore
Video Lessons & Solo Performances by: David Skidmore
Print & Video Edited by: Mark Wessels
Photography: Austin Ward

Lesson 1



Focus On:

- Double vertical strokes at the interval of a perfect 5th
 - Shifting between notes
 - Basics of dynamics
 - Basics of phrasing

Warm Up

This exercise provides a simple way to warm up your hands and get them comfortable playing relaxed, full sounds on the marimba. Remember to start at a slow tempo.

Every exercise in this book should be practiced at all dynamic levels!

Warm Up 1A



Warm Up 1B





Dynamics

Correct dynamics are just as important as correct notes and rhythms. You need to practice the correct dynamics from the very beginning at a slow tempo, and learn correct dynamics at the same time that you are learning correct notes and rhythms.

Shifting Notes

Shift your hands to the next note as soon as you play the preceding note. This will help you stay relaxed and play more accurately. See the free online video series that accompanies this book for more information.



Stick heights = Dynamics

Don't play "harder" to play louder, just start with the sticks higher above the instrument, and let gravity do the work!

Check out the videos!

Find my video tutorials online to go in depth on how to shift between notes, and lots more.



Practice Routine

2 minutes: Warm Up 1A

2 minutes: Warm Up 1B

2 minutes: Warm Up 1C

5 minutes: Phrasing Exercise

20 minutes: Etude 1

Take your time and be patient as you're getting used to holding 4 mallets. Focus on your stick heights.

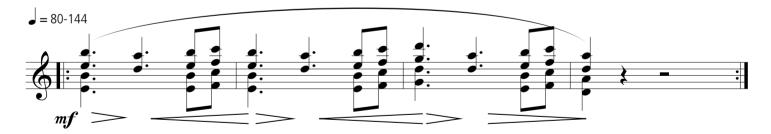
Phrasing

Dynamic markings show the big picture of how loud or quiet the music is, but from note to note within each piece of music there are very slight variations in how loud or quiet a note is, and this is what makes the music come alive.

It takes time to get comfortable playing in phrases, but for starters, think about how when you talk there are slight variations in how loud or quiet each word is. You do this every day, every time you talk, without thinking about it. Eventually playing musical phrases will come just as naturally.

This phrasing exercise shows one example of how to phrase the first 4 measures of the etude. All 4 measures are the dynamic mezzo forte (*mf*). However, the mezzo forte dynamic is a range, not a fixed point. Use subtle changes in stick heights to create these subtle crescendos and diminuendos.

Phrasing Exercise





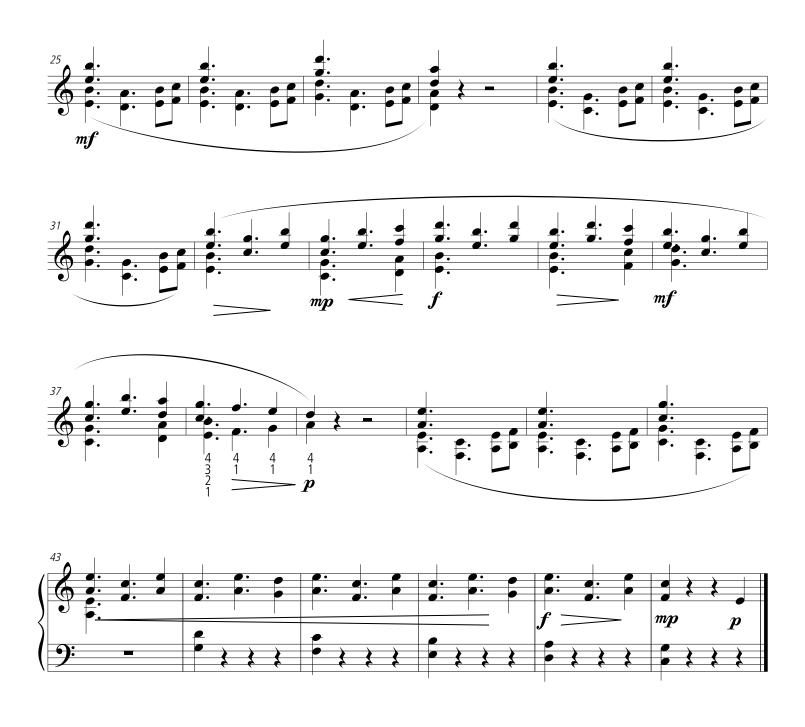
Definitions

Double Vertical Stroke: When two mallets in one hand strike the marimba at the same time. Use a simple bend of the wrist to produce this stroke, with the hands and fingers very relaxed.

Musical Phrase: A series of notes grouped together to form a complete musical thought. Notes=words; phrases=sentences. Subtle changes in dynamics create musical phrases.

Hello Song





Tempo

One of the most important things that separates good musicians from everyone else is having the patience to START SLOW, and make sure the music sounds great before increasing the tempo. The slowest tempo in the tempo range written above the first measure of music (quarter note equals 80) is a good place to start, but feel free to start even slower.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	Getting the Most Out of the Book, Acknowledgments	
	Phrasing, Dynamics, Sticking	7
Holding 4 Mallets	Stevens Grip (Modified Musser Grip)	
	Burton Grip	
Stroke Types	Descriptions of All Major 4-Mallet Strokes	11
Lesson 1	Double Vertical Strokes (Perfect 5th), Shifting, Dynamics, Phrasing	
Lesson 2	Double Vertical Strokes, Basic Interval Changes	
Lesson 3	Single Independent Strokes, Melody vs. Accompaniment	
Lesson 4	Double Vertical Strokes, Dynamic Independence Between Hands, Accents Etude #4: The Oldest Song	
Lesson 5	Double Lateral Strokes, Proper Playing Area, Sticking Indications	
Lesson 6	Single Alternating Strokes, Double Laterals: 1234 Sticking, Tenuto	32
Lesson 7	Double Laterals: 1243 Stickings, Harmony and Phrasing	
Lesson 8	Double Laterals: 2134 Sticking, Arpeggiated Chords	
Lesson 9	Interval Changes, Mallet Selection, Phrasing with Tenutos and Accents Etude #9: Gravity in Threes	
Lesson 10	Traditional (Alternating) Rolls, Shifting Notes When Rolling, Rubato Etude #10: The Light Before You Wake Up	

Lesson 11	Ostinatos, Independence Between Hands, Mallet Selection	
Lesson 12	Interval Changes: Both Hands, Double Laterals 1234 Sticking	
Lesson 13	Combining Double Laterals and Single Independents, Phrasing Repeated Notes Etude #13: Your Voice in the Crowd	
Lesson 14	Wide Intervals, Double Laterals: 4321 Sticking, Dominant vs. Weaker Hand Etude #14: The Art of Falling	
Lesson 15	Two Hand Ostinatos, Combining Stroke Types, Intro to One-Handed Rolls Etude #15: Side Eye	
Lesson 16	Triple Lateral Strokes: 1234321 Sticking, Narrow Intervals, Hemiolas	
Lesson 17	Mixed Meters, Interval Changes: Wide to Narrow, Phrasing with Accents Etude #17: All Edges	
Lesson 18	Shared Hand Ostinato, Combining Single Alternating and Triple Laterals Etude #18: Clock Face	
Lesson 19	Large Leaps Between Notes, Independence Etude #19: Brain Dance	
Lesson 20	Quick Interval Changes, One-Hand Isolated Accents, Slurs and Sub phrases Etude #20: Change is Good	
Lesson 21	Octave Double Vertical Strokes, Body Position	
Lesson 22	Footwork, Phrasing Repetitions of Material, Offbeat Melodies	
Lesson 23	One-Handed Rolls, Ripple Rolls, Rolling While Playing Articulated Notes	
Lesson 24	Extremely Wide Intervals, Doubling Outer Mallet Notes, Difficult Stickings Etude #24: Everything to Everyone	

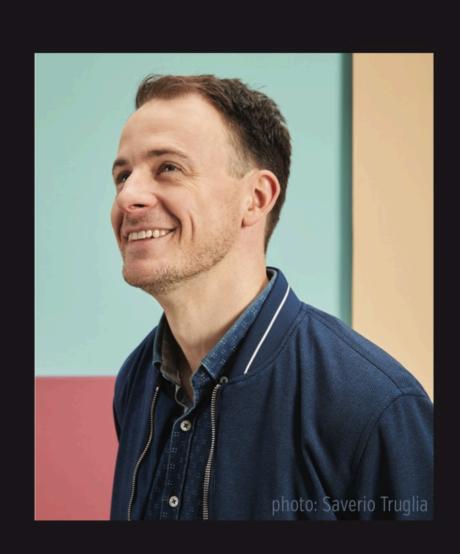
A FRESH APPROACH TO Technique & Musicianship with FOUR MALLETS DAVID SKIDMORE

A COMPLETE METHOD FOR LEARNING TO PLAY FOUR MALLETS!

Grammy Award-winning artist and composer David Skidmore introduces each of the fundamental 4-mallet skills step-by-step in 24 progressive lessons. Exercises in each lesson provide not only technical training, but also teach valuable musical phrasing concepts. Each lesson culminates with a short solo that develops the techniques and phrasing concepts from the lesson into a musically meaningful piece. Individual solos or combinations of solos from the book are perfect for performing on recitals, solo contests, or high school and college auditions.

INCLUDING FREE VIDEO LESSONS AND SOLO PERFORMANCES!

David Skidmore is a Grammy Award-winning percussionist and composer. As a member of Third Coast Percussion, he performs over 100 concerts each year on tour throughout the United States and abroad. David taught on the percussion faculty at the Peabody Conservatory for 4 years, and was a member of the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble and Ensemble ACJW. His compositions are performed regularly in concert halls and universities all over the world. David holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Northwestern University, and a Master of Music degree from the Yale School of Music.





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1271 Crooked Stick Drive Prosper, TX 75078 www.mwpublications.com