

A F R E S H A P P R O A C H T O

Technique & Musicianship with

FOUR MALLETS

24 Progressive Solos for Marimba

DAVID SKIDMORE



INCLUDES
VIDEO LIBRARY WITH
LESSONS AND
SOLO PERFORMANCES!

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

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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

♩ = 80-144

Musical notation for Warm Up 1A, featuring a treble clef, 4/4 time signature, and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piece consists of ten measures of music, each containing a pair of notes (a perfect fifth interval) with a double vertical stroke. The notes are: G4-A4, A4-B4, B4-C5, C5-D5, D5-E5, E5-F#5, F#5-G5, G5-A5, A5-B5, and B5-C6. The notation includes dynamic markings *f*, *mf*, and *p* below the notes, and the instruction "R R R R etc." below the first measure.

Warm Up 1B

Musical notation for Warm Up 1B, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piece consists of ten measures of music, each containing a pair of notes (a perfect fifth interval) with a double vertical stroke. The notes are: G4-A4, A4-B4, B4-C5, C5-D5, D5-E5, E5-F#5, F#5-G5, G5-A5, A5-B5, and B5-C6. The notation includes dynamic markings *f*, *mf*, and *p* below the notes, and the instruction "L L L L etc." below the first measure.

Warm Up 1C

Musical notation for Warm Up 1C, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piece consists of ten measures of music, each containing a pair of notes (a perfect fifth interval) with a double vertical stroke. The notes are: G4-A4, A4-B4, B4-C5, C5-D5, D5-E5, E5-F#5, F#5-G5, G5-A5, A5-B5, and B5-C6. The notation includes dynamic markings *f*, *mf*, and *p* below the notes.

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.



Reminders

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

♩ = 80-144

mf



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.

ETUDE 1

Hello Song

David Skidmore

♩ = 80-144

Musical notation for measures 1-4. Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. The music consists of a series of chords with moving upper voices. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present below the first measure.

Musical notation for measures 5-8. Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. The music continues with chords and moving upper voices. A dynamic marking of *mp* is present below the eighth measure.

Musical notation for measures 9-15. Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. The music continues with chords and moving upper voices. Dynamic markings include *f* at the start, *mf* in the middle, and *p* at the end. Fingering numbers (4, 3, 2, 1) are shown below the notes in the final measure.

Musical notation for measures 16-19. Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. The music continues with chords and moving upper voices.

Musical notation for measures 20-23. Treble and bass clefs, 4/4 time signature. The music continues with chords and moving upper voices in the treble, and a simple bass line in the bass. Dynamic markings include *f* and *mp*.

25 *mf*

31 *mp* *f* *mf*

37 4 3 2 1 *p*

43 *f* *mp* *p*

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.

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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.



photo: Saverio Truglia

ID#FA4M \$29.95



9 780971 478404

ISBN 978-0-9714784-0-4

MARK WESSELS PUBLICATIONS

1271 Crooked Stick Drive

Prosper, TX 75078

www.mwpublications.com