

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  
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LESSONS AND  
SOLO PERFORMANCES!

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

Written by: David Skidmore

Video Lessons & Solo Performances by: David Skidmore

Print & Video Edited by: Mark Wessels

Photography: Austin Ward

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# Lesson 4



## Focus On:

- Double vertical strokes
- Independence between the hands
  - Accents



## Definitions

**Independence:** One hand serves a different musical function than the other. One hand is melody, the other hand is accompaniment. The hands often play different dynamics at the same time.

**Accent (>):** A symbol printed above a note, indicating that the note should be emphasized more than other notes in the same passage. Usually this means playing the accented note louder.

## Warm Up

Like the first etude, the etude in this lesson only asks you to play an interval of a 5th with double vertical strokes. However, this is the first etude that requires one hand to play a dynamic that is independent of the other hand.

Use these exercises to focus on changing dynamics with one hand while the other hand stays the same. Remember dynamics = stick heights! If you focus on keeping your hands relaxed and only affecting the dynamic by changing the stick heights, you will be able to produce a great sound at any dynamic level. You should also practice in front of a mirror, or video record yourself to watch your stick heights as you play.

### Warm Up 1A

$\text{♩} = 80-144$

*f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

*l.h. mf throughout this exercise*

*p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*



## Reminders

### Tempo

This etude and these exercises should never be played too fast. Start slow and use a metronome!

### Dynamics

In the etude at measure 17 we see forte (*f*) in both hands, making this the loudest moment in the piece. Very often you can tell where the climax occurs in a piece of music based on the dynamics.



## Practice Routine

**3 minutes: Warm Up 1A**

**3 minutes: Warm Up 1B**

**5 minutes: Phrasing Exercise**

**20 minutes: Etude 4**

**Every other day: Be sure to spend 5 minutes reviewing past lessons!**

## Warm Up 1B

*r.h. mf throughout this exercise*

The musical notation for Warm Up 1B consists of two systems. Each system has a treble clef staff (right hand) and a bass clef staff (left hand). The right hand part is marked *mf* throughout. The left hand part features dynamic markings *f* and *p* with slurs indicating phrasing. The first system has four measures with dynamics *f*, *p*, *f*, and *p*. The second system has four measures with dynamics *p*, *f*, *p*, and *f*.

## Phrasing

The following exercises show two different ways to phrase the music in the right hand within the dynamic range of mezzo forte (*mf*), and two different ways to phrase the left hand within the dynamic range of piano (*p*). Practice each exercise several times, starting SLOW and gradually increasing the tempo once the phrasing feels comfortable.

### Phrasing Exercise 1A

### Phrasing Exercise 1B

The musical notation for Phrasing Exercise 1A and 1B consists of two systems. Each system has a treble clef staff (right hand) and a bass clef staff (left hand). The right hand part is marked *mf* and features a slur over the first two notes. The left hand part is marked *p* and features a slur over the first two notes. The exercises are identical in notation.

# ETUDE 4

## The Oldest Song

David Skidmore

♩ = 80-120

mf

4 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 3 2 1 3 2 1 2 3 3 3 2 1 1 1 1

6

mf

etc.

11

1. 2. 3 3 3 3 3 3

*l.h. cresc.* mf mf f

16

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 4 3 1

*l.h. cresc.* f mf mp

21

p 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 4 4 4 3 2 4 4 4 4 3 2

26

4 4 4 4 4 4 3 3 3 3 2

mf p pp

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# FOUR MALLETS

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## A COMPLETE METHOD FOR LEARNING TO PLAY FOUR MALLETS!

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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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