

Rudimentary, My Dear Watson

Exploring the Rudiments on the Hammered Dulcimer

Introduction:

Since the hammered dulcimer is a percussion instrument, it makes a lot of sense to approach it as such. We will discuss basic rudiments including the paradiddle and flams. We will encourage counting out measures. We will talk about time signatures. We will also discuss syncopation. We will then learn the Irish Hornpipe “Off to California” and add some syncopation to it.

Basic Rudiments

- Percussive Arts Society forty essential rudiments
<http://www.pas.org/resources/rudiments/rudiments.html>
- Alternate right and left hand
- Counting the beat out loud – “one and two and three and four and”
- **Use a metronome!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**
- Keep it even
- Playing a basic single stroke roll – R L R L R L R L
- Playing a double stroke roll – R R L L R R L L
- Playing a controlled multi-bounce roll
- Paradiddle – “down up tap tap down up tap tap” - R L R R L R L L
 - Hints: Play evenly; the rhythm is in the accents
- Flams - **L R R L L R R L L R R L L R R L**
 - Flam and tap – **L R R R L L L R R R L L**
- Swiss Army triplets
 - Start right – **L R R L | L R R L**
 - Start left - **R L L R | R L L R**
- Alternating Base
- A little about time signatures
- Approaching tunes using rudiments

Syncopation

- An accent or interruption of the regular flow of rhythm or a placement of rhythmic stresses to embellish a segment of music.
- Simple Example
 - 1 - 2 - 3 - (4) and 1
 - 1 - 2 - (3) - and 4 - 1
 - Etc.
- Applying this to your music
- Adding syncopation to a tune: “Off to California”

<http://www.oldmusicproject.com/AA3Sheet/1201-1800/Sheet-1601-1700/1628-OffToCalifornia1st.gif>

About The Author:

Cliff Cole purchased his first hammered dulcimer in 1985, from Sam Rizzetta. At the time he was playing drums in a blues band. Prior to taking up the dulcimer, he studied drums and percussion for ten years. Since the age of fifteen Cliff has played in numerous rock, blues, jazz, zydeco and folk ensembles. Folk instruments are where the heart is.

Cliff plays the hammered dulcimer in the family folk group "DayBreak," which has been together since 1989. They have made several recordings, including "Lost Cave" which was recorded live inside of Lost River Caverns in Hellertown, "Little Steps", and "Autumn Calling," which features many of Cliff's original tunes. They also have produced two Christmas CD's one named "Unity; Unique Music for Christmas" and a live Holiday concert recorded in December of 2002.

DayBreak's music is available on CD-Baby, iTunes and many other digital download stores found on the web.

Cliff also sometimes plays gigs with his lovely daughter, Emily Rose under the name of "Glass Roses". Emily has a strong, beautiful voice, which blends nicely with the dulcimer and guitar. They released a CD named Falling Wings. The CD feature's Emily's voice and some of her original tunes. Emily is now off to college (Mansfield University) and doesn't have as much time to play gigs with her dad.

Cliff is a member of the Percussive Arts Society. <http://www.pas.org/>

Cliff's hammered dulcimer was made by James Jones. The full sized 2/16/18/7 instrument covers four octaves and has dampening pedal. For more information about James Jones instruments go to his web site: <http://www.jamesjonesinstruments.com>

Cliff lives with his lovely wife, Pamela, in Quakertown, Pennsylvania. He works as a computer hardware test engineer for the Q-Logic Corporation, which is located in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

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This document can be downloaded from:

<http://www.daybreakfolk.com/CliffCole.htm>