

INDOOR PERCUSSION TECHNIQUE AND AUDITION PACKET

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Thank you for your interest in the Express Percussion Indoor Percussion Ensemble!

In this packet are detailed instructions, expectations, and valuable resources to prepare you for what is to come in the 2025 XP indoor program.

This packet provides the same opportunity to every individual who was auditioning for the indoor group. It will be the student's responsibility m to make sure they are prepared and ready for the audition prior to the audition date.

Difference between rehearsal and practice. Yes, there is a difference!!!

Practice:

Practice is the personal effort to improve your skills at something. It takes place outside of our scheduled rehearsal hours. This could mean dedicating extra time after school to work on a specific part, reviewing your music at home, and honing your abilities independently. This is also the time to ask a staff member about your parts if that part has already been addressed in ensemble rehearsal. As a member of this ensemble, you will be expected to practice outside of our scheduled rehearsal times.

Rehearsal:

Rehearsal is the designated time when we come together each week to collaborate and refine what we've been practicing, both during group rehearsals and individual practice sessions. It's important to note that rehearsal time is not meant for learning unrelated material or seeking help with playing a specific part or understanding your music, as that should have been addressed during your personal practice time. During rehearsals, it's crucial to respect everyone's time, as we have set schedules in place to ensure we accomplish what's needed.

Auditions will take place on November 23 2024!

How auditions work:

This season will be the first of our newly revised auditions. This is for several reasons, but the main reason is to make sure we put you on an instrument that the staff believe fits best both individually and as an ensemble. Everything in this packet is what you will be expected to know prior to the audition date. For example, if you want to audition for snare drum and quads, you will be expected to know both instruments audition materials in the audition. This does not mean you have to play both, but you are expected to know both. All instrumentalists of the ensemble are required to audition.

This audition process consists of two parts: the one-on-one audition and the ensemble audition.

One-on-one Audition:

- One-on-one auditions involve individual interviews with the staff to assess the member's individual capabilities. The focus will primarily be on music and instrument-related visual aspects (such as front ensemble pulsing and battery marking time). These auditions are expected to last about 15 minutes and will take place during the morning rehearsal.
- Auditionees are responsible for being familiar with the provided audition material
 included in this packet. If someone is auditioning for multiple instruments or sections
 (e.g., both battery and front ensemble), they will need to audition on each instrument.
 However, in cases like auditioning for both marimba and vibes in the front ensemble,
 playing both is not required.
- Auditions will follow a set schedule to ensure everyone has an equal opportunity to audition during rehearsal. Auditionees should be prepared to play any prescribed warmup scales and musical pieces provided in the audition materials.
- A metronome will be provided for your audition. This must be used during audition

Ensemble Auditions:

- Ensemble auditions will occur on the same day as the one-on-one auditions but will be an all-day event. During ensemble rehearsals, the staff will observe how individuals work together and their collective performance as an ensemble.
- This phase assesses aspects that can't be evaluated in a one-on-one music audition, such as eye contact, communication between members, visual elements, maintaining tempo, dynamics, and more. It helps determine how well candidates function as a team and contribute to the overall ensemble's success.
- While these are not official audition dates, every pre-audition rehearsal is an audition!
 Every chance you get to show the staff what you are capable of will be taken into consideration.

Please make sure you are prepared for these auditions! Multiple people will be auditioning for these instruments. We have a set number of instruments that we are going to be using this year, so if you are very set on playing one instrument, please make sure you prepare for it. Once auditions are over, you will not be able to switch instruments with somebody unless of a unique circumstance (someone quits or is cut from the line).

TWO MALLET TECHNIQUE

Summary

In order for this ensemble to rehearse effectively, it is essential that we define our technical style and create a working vocabulary.

To summarize greatly, our technique will revolve around:

- 1. A relaxed hand position with a natural curve to the fingers.
- 2. Playing from the wrist, while keeping our shoulders and elbows relaxed.
- 3. Creating the look and feel of natural rebound.

Grip Criteria

- 1. Hold the mallet between the first knuckle of the index finger and the pad of the thumb. The other fingers should be wrapped around the mallet in a relaxed and natural manner.
- 2. The palm's angle should be as flat as possible to the instrument without causing tension.

Setup Behind the Instrument

- Stand with feet shoulder width apart with relaxed knees, centering your body in the register of the instrument you will be playing.
- 2. In the set position, the mallets/wrists are up, at the height of the dynamic you will play. The mallets are slightly angled toward each other.
- 3. Elbows are relaxed.
- 4. Make sure there is a natural curve to the hand.

Stroke Guidelines

- 1. Continue to follow all grip criteria and setup guidelines.
- 2. Mallet pathway is straight up and down (no slicing).
- 3. The mallet head moves first, not the forearm or arm. If the mallet head moves first.
- 4. Check your height of rise consistency. Duplicate your stick heights to achieve a more consistent sound.

Prepping and Pulsing

Prepping (or *Mallet Pulse*) is done before every rep or entry to a phrase. When we are performing, only the center will be looking at the drum major for time. Everyone else in the front should "look in" (which is something you will hear all season). Preps will be 4 micro mallet movements to ensure our entry points are always in unison and in time.

Pulsing is a full-body motion done to allow all pit members to feel the time and be on the same page. It will help us all ensure that every member of the front not only looks engaged in the part but can confidently keep time as we play and perform. Pulsing is mainly done in intervals of the show where we do **NOT** have anything to play, for example if we have a 6-bar rest, we are to pulse off the center to make sure our time is perfect.

STROKE TYPES

The Legato Stroke

In this case the word **legato** refers to the look of the stroke (smooth and connected) rather than the sound that it produces. The mallets move in a smooth and connected manner between the **downstroke** and the **upstroke** without interruption. The downstroke is slightly accelerated and the upstroke is slower and slightly decelerated. This is an excellent general purpose stroke and will be used for most of our music and exercises.

The Piston Stroke

The **piston** stroke requires a downstroke that accelerates more than the legato stroke, and a natural, decelerating upstroke (like dribbling a basketball). There is a noticeable pause between strokes. This stroke is excellent for **shifting** in slower passages that demand the utmost accuracy, and for practicing **double vertical** strokes when using 4 mallets.

STROKE CONCEPTS

FULL Stroke

This stroke can be played in either a legato or a piston style. The mallet starts at the height of the dynamic you will play, and returns to the same height. Full strokes are the most common type of stroke, and can be repeated one after another. This stroke can be played in a **legato** or **piston** style (along with all of the strokes below).

DOWN Stroke

The mallet starts at the height of the dynamic you will play, but does not return to the previous height (no rebound). At the point where the mallet strikes the bar, the wrist stops and does not lift back up. The mallet will slightly rebound due to a small amount of bounce (don't let the mallet "dead stroke" on the bar). This stroke is ideal for going from a loud to a soft passage of music and maintaining stroke efficiency.

TAP Stroke

"Tap" refers to a rudimental drumming stroke, where the stick only plays 1-3 inches off the head. For our purposes, tap strokes are basically full strokes at a very low height. They can also be played in a legato or piston style.

UP Stroke

The mallet starts at a low height (tap stroke height) and after striking the bar, rebounds to the height of a full stroke. This stroke is ideal for going from a soft to a loud passage of music and maintaining stroke efficiency.

Shifting

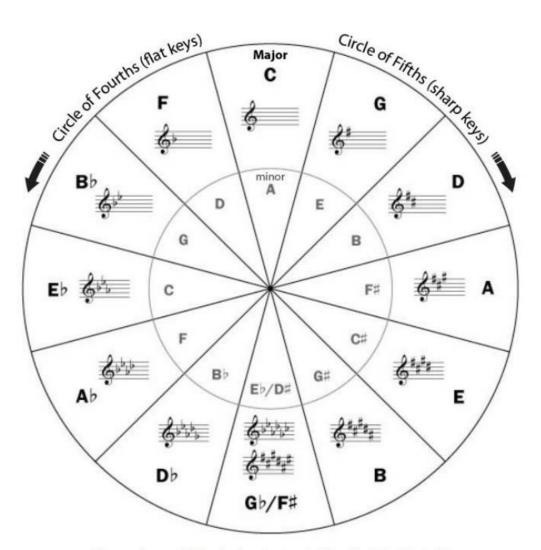
Basically, **shifting** is how you move from one note to another. The shift must be a part of your stroke's recovery (or rebound). In other words, while your mallet is coming off the bar you just struck, it is headed in the direction of its next target. Though this sounds like a simple concept, it will get a little more complex when we consider having four mallets in our hands and changing intervals and dynamics. The most common problem is waiting too long to shift. Efficient shifting will lead to greater accuracy and consistency.

Flow

The four stroke types discussed above can be played in many different combinations, and have many musical applications. When mastered, they will give you technical efficiency to enable you to relax while playing.

Flow is the ability to combine the above concepts and guidelines into one fluid idea. This will allow you to see and experience the "bigger picture" in the music (musical and rhythmic phrases, dynamics, and expression). This is a big part of becoming a great performer.

CIRCLE OF 4THS



Flats are always added to the key signature in this order: B, E, A, D, G, C, F Sharps are always added to the key signature in this order: F, C, G, D, A, E, B

Circle of 4ths

Starting at C, we go left down the circle until we do a full loop. How this flow is easy to remember - The reason we call it the circle of 4ths is because every 4th note of our scale tells us the next scale we play. Starting with C, the 4th note of C major is F, so we know that F is the next scale. Flats are added to the key signature every fourth note. Starting from C major (no flats), the sequence is as follows:

C Major (0 flats) - F Major (1 flat) - Bb Major (2 flats) - Eb Major (3 flats) - Ab Major (4 flats) - Db Major (5 flats) - Gb Major (6 flats) - Cb Major (7 flats).

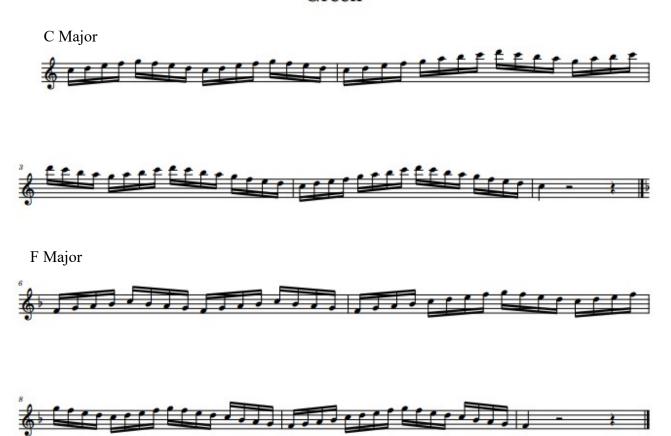
The pattern continues with flats being added to every fourth note as you move counterclockwise around the circle. As we come up the right side of the circle, we now have sharps instead of flats. Essentially after Gb, we switch to a # instead of b. We subtract a sharp every 4th note of the scale until we reach C major (0 sharps or flats), completing the circle.

2 MALLET WARMUPS

Green

Green is a 2-mallet warmup that utilizes the circle of 4ths and a fluctuating tempo. This exercise is a 16th note grid that goes through each major scale. This exercise also adjusts in tempo. For example, we will start at 100 bpm and we could go up to 190 bpm. When working on this exercise, our goals will be to stay relaxed, unison mallet heights matched to the center, keep all notes the same dynamic (not accenting the right hand), and build confidence with 16-note runs.

Green



Continue for all major scales

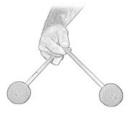
4 MALLET TECHNIQUE

Overview

Our primary grips for 4 mallet technique **Stevens Grip**.

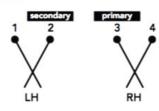
Much of what you will need to know about 4 mallet playing will be taught in rehearsals. Also, almost all of the concepts and techniques described above also apply to 4 mallet playing.

4 Mallet Stickings



Mallet Identification

· Stevens Grip mallet designations





4 MALLET STROKE TYPES

There are 4 stroke types that cover nearly all 4 mallet playing:

1. Single Independent Inside: Single notes played by the inside mallets.



2. Single Independent Outside: Single notes played by the outside mallets.



3. Single Alternating: Single note patterns to be played by the same hand, alternating the inside and outside mallets.

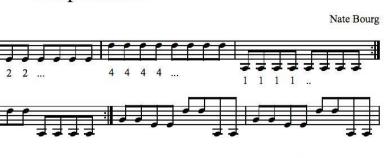


4. Double Vertical: Double notes to be played simultaneously by the same hand (or hands together).

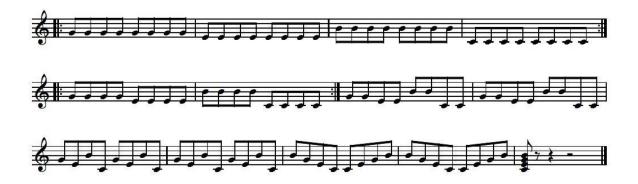


The following 3 exercises will focus on each of these strokes.

Independents







Alternating Strokes



Waves



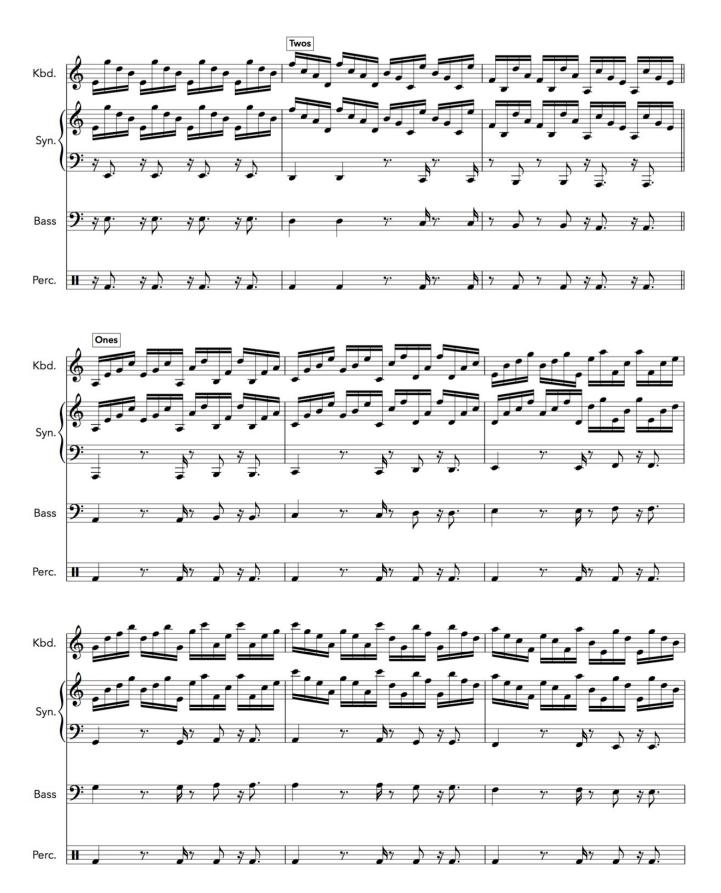
Waves - Page 2





Broccoli

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Lot Tunes

Lot tunes get us from warm-up to show music. These are a fun, relaxed ways to get us ready for the show.

This season, we will learn and perform three lot tunes. The first, "Mixtape," is based on 4 mallet stroke types and is for front ensemble only. The second, "Golden Hour," is for front ensemble only, and the third, "Only Human," is for the full ensemble.

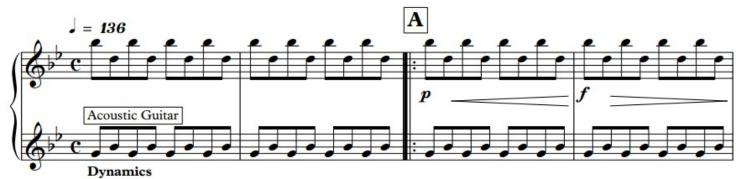
For the audition, you should have an understanding of "Mixtape." This is the only tune we will worry about to start the season. You are expected to play a chunk of this (which will be chosen on audition day) during the audition. You will learn what the chunk is when you walk into the room for the audition. Do **NOT** rely on people who go before you to tell you what the chunk is as it WILL CHANGE from person to person.

Here are the parts for "Mixtape":

- Marimba, xylophone, and vibraphone: keyboard part
- Synthesizer: Synth 1
- Electric guitar and bass: Synth 2
- Percussion 1: drum set
- Percussion 2: RACK

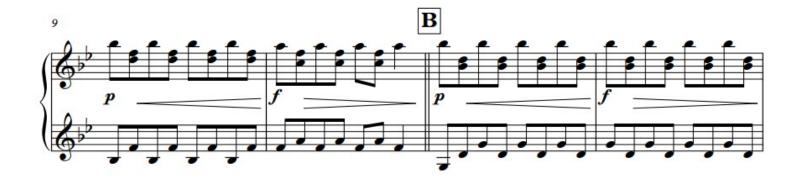
Mixtape can be found on the next couple pages:

Jules Scogna, Bobby Scott



1x: full out 2x: written dynamics







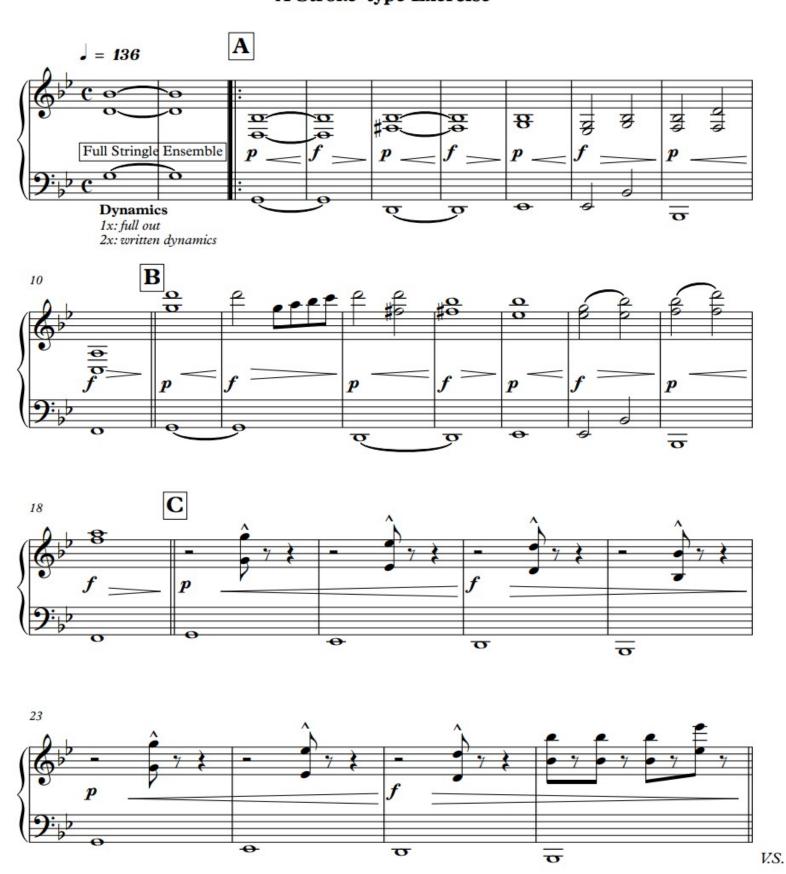


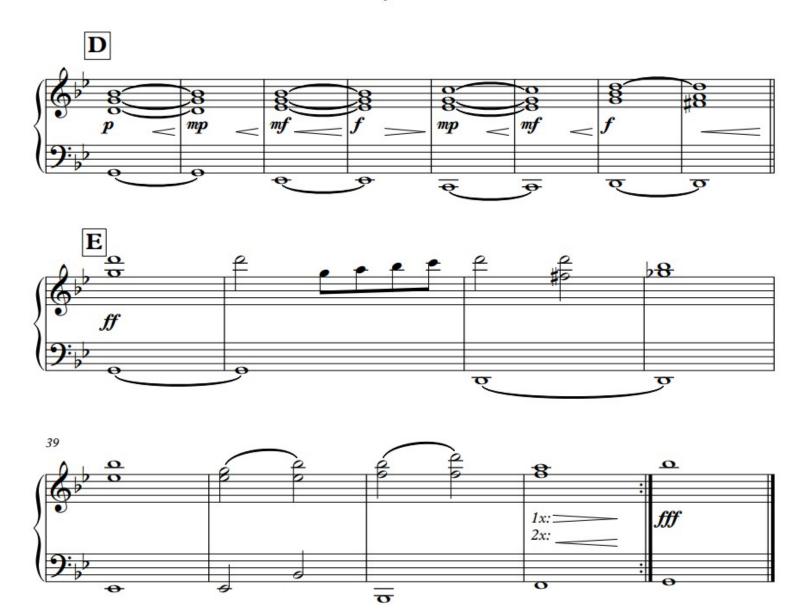


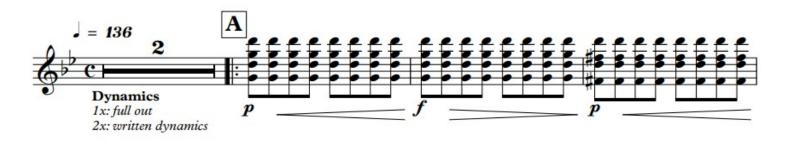


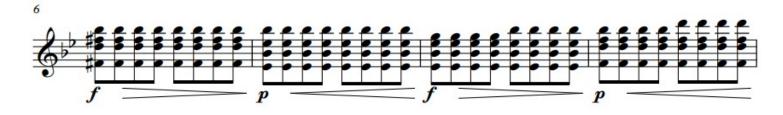








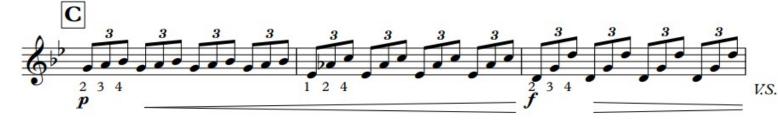


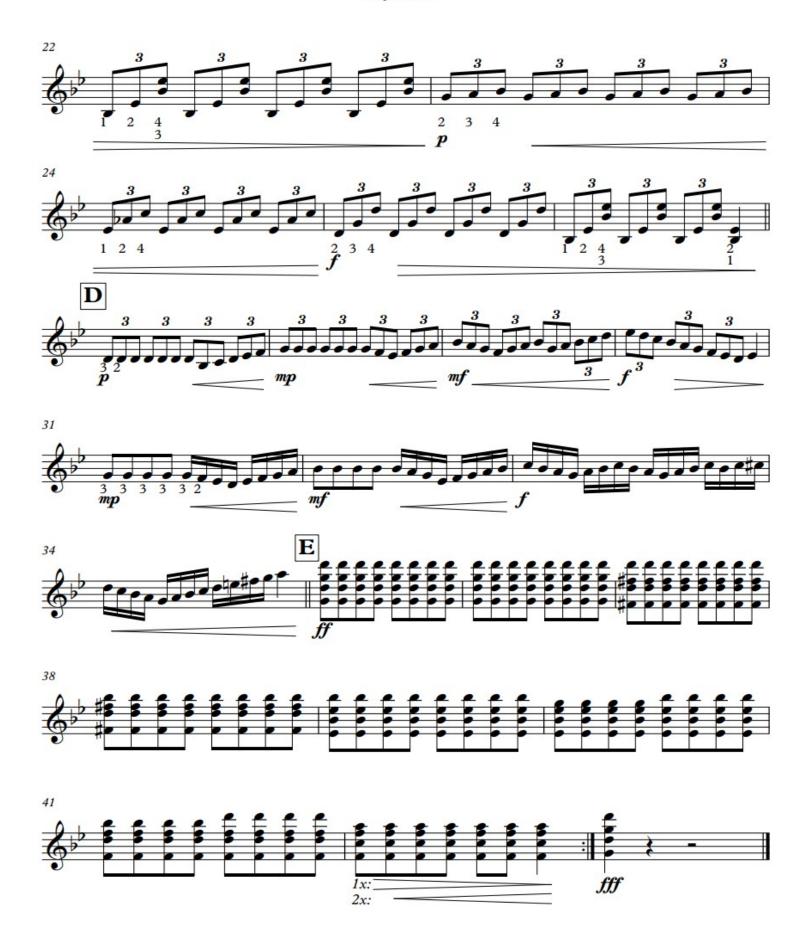








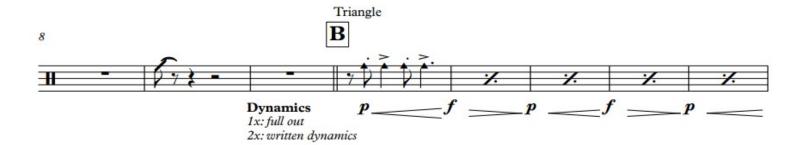


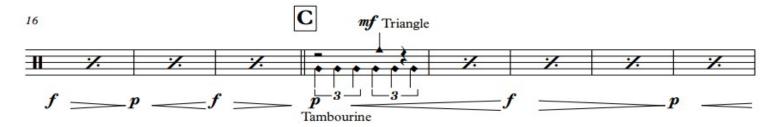


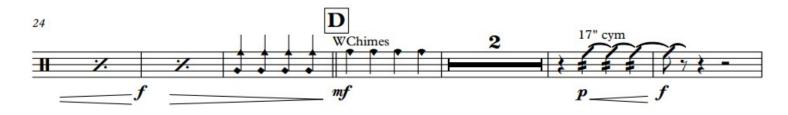


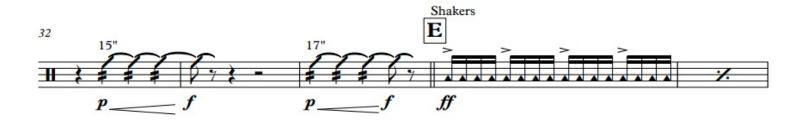










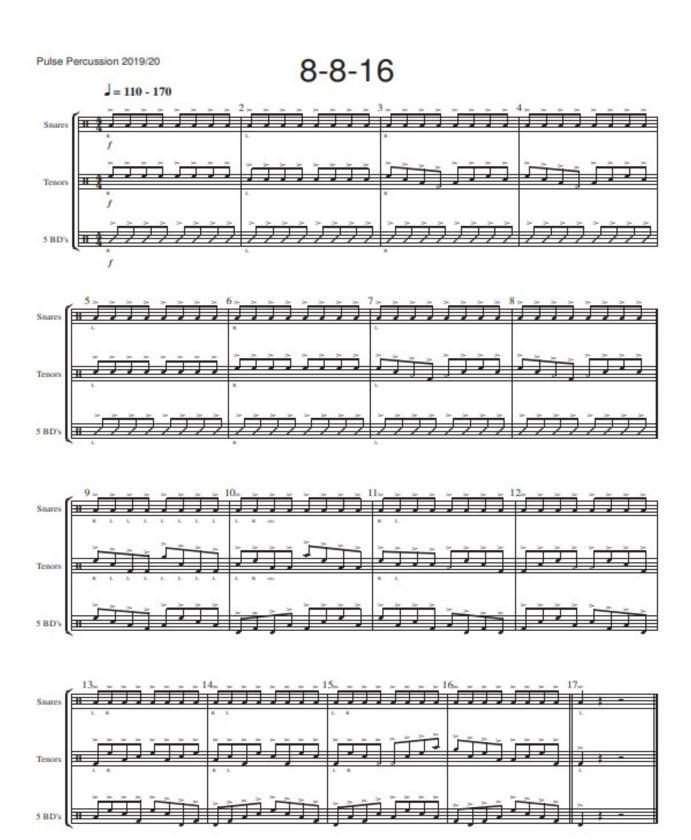




Battery

New Warmups

Starting this season, we will be using a brand-new packet for warmups and auditions. We will be using this warm-up packet as it is more adapted for our show. Contents of this packet are exercises that we will be played throughout the entirety of this season, including the audition. Expectations are that you can play these pieces while reading the music. Memorization is key to this as well, but make sure you learn it with the music for the audition.



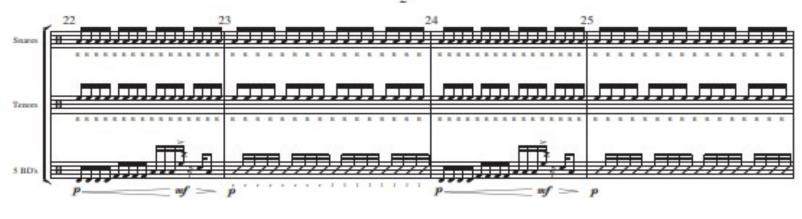
8-8-16, Tap Accent variation

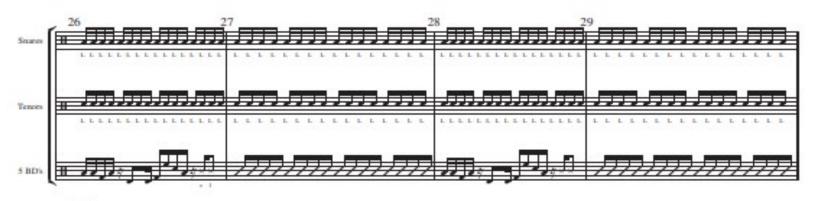
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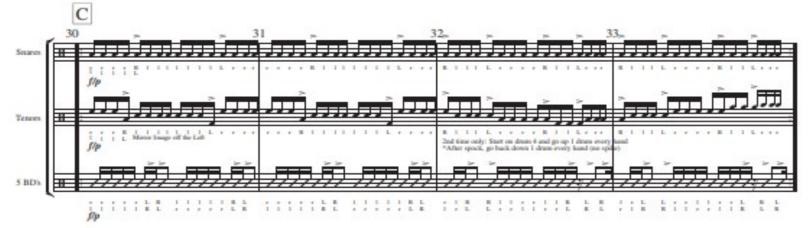


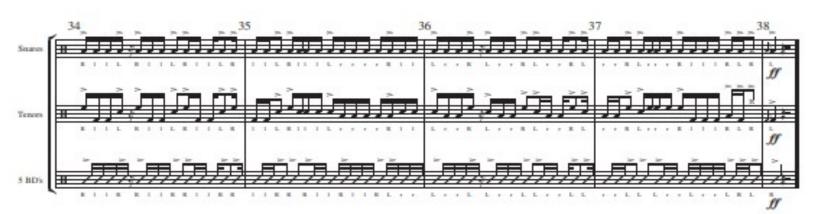
Taps











Stick Control



Double Triple Beat

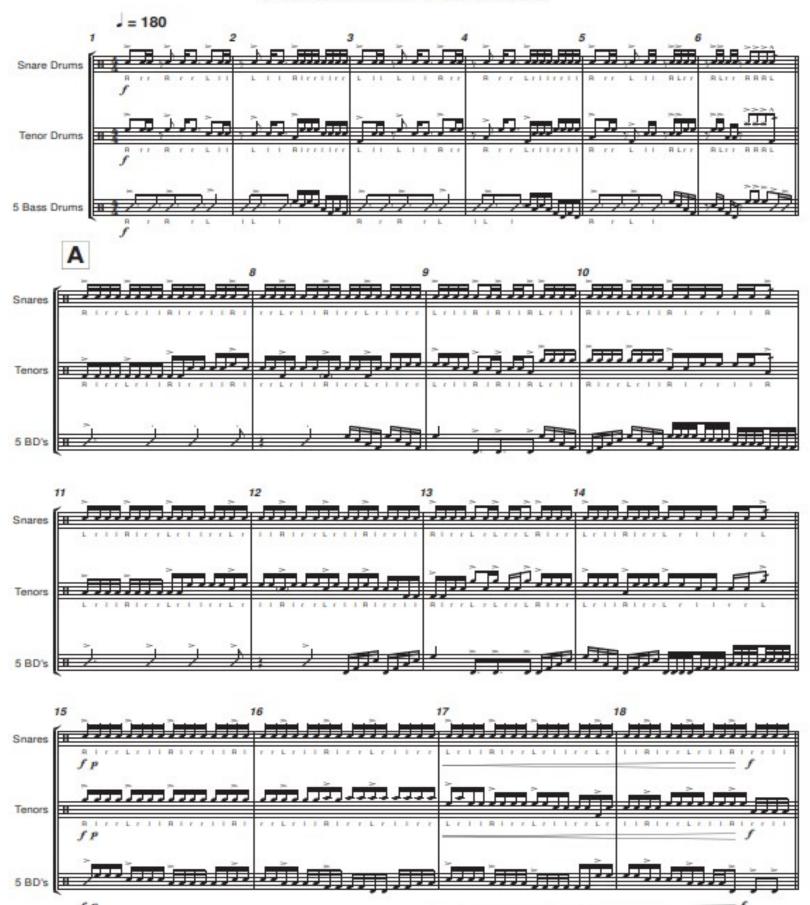


Pulse Percussion 2019/20

Double Triple Beat



Paradiddle Paradise

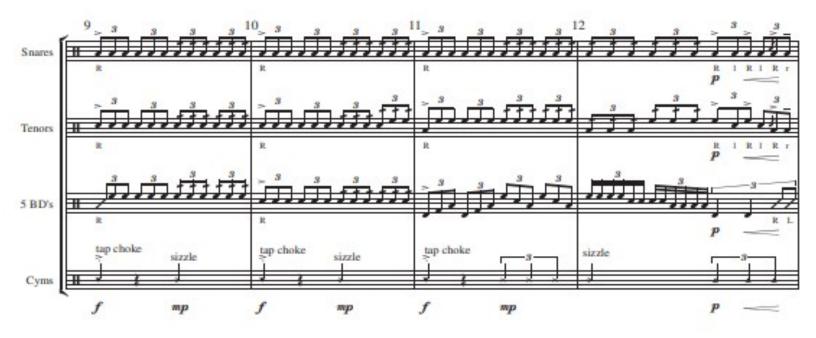




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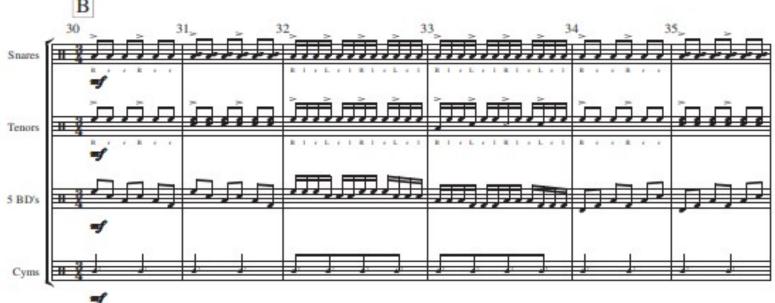
SingleStew

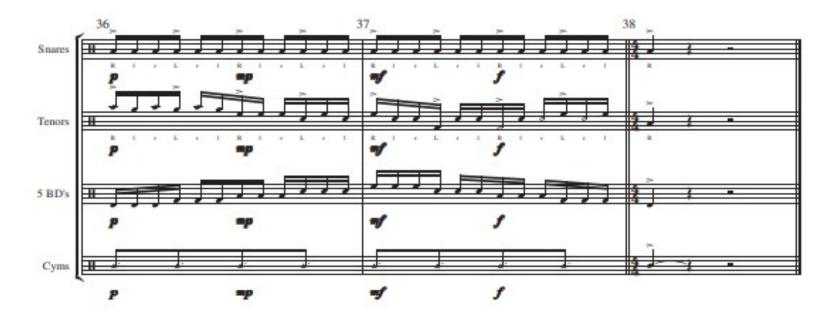












Pulse Flams

(Shorter Audition version)

J Mapes



