

PERCUSSION

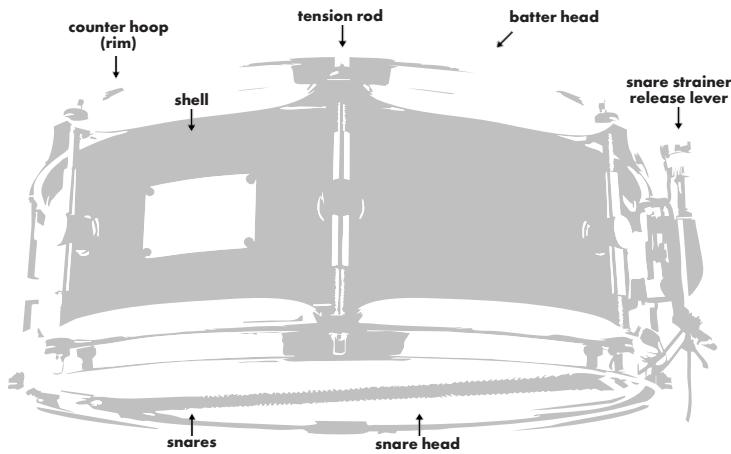
THE LET'S PLAY BAND METHOD

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Instrument fingering font from MusicTeacherTools.com

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Getting Started



Assembling Your Instrument

Pull apart the legs of your drum stand and tighten the tripod base screw to lock them into place. Avoid over tightening. Make sure you raise the stand so that your drum will sit at waist level then tighten the screw to lock it into place. Place the snare drum or practice pad on the stand. Some practice pads will screw into place. If you're using a snare drum, make sure the strainer lever is facing you. Tighten any adjustment arms to fit snug against the drum or pad.

Holding Your Instrument

- Pick up your sticks with your thumb and pointer finger about one third away from the base of the stick with the tips pointed away from you.
- Your top knuckle and thumb should be lined up on opposite sides of the stick.
- Curve the rest of your fingering lightly around the stick.
- Turn your hands over so that the back of your hand is flat.
- Stand close enough so the tips of your sticks can rest comfortably on the center of the drum.

Getting A Sound

- Keep your elbows at your side and lift your forearms so your sticks are roughly two inches above your drumhead. Keep the tips close to each other.
- Move only your wrist so that your stick raises no more than 8 inches above the drumhead.
- Hit the drum near the center of the drumhead letting the stick rebound back into the "up" position.

Playing Position

Many athletes have learned there is a proper way to approach the plate or the free throw line for the highest probability for success; it's the same way when playing an instrument! The following strategies have been proven to ensure the highest probability of achieving the fullest and richest tone quality on your instrument:

- Keep both feet flat on the floor
- Keep your shoulders down and relaxed
- Think about standing up straight and making yourself as tall as possible

*Bring your instrument up to you,
don't slouch down to reach your instrument!*



Technique

- Keep your elbows out slightly when you play.
- Keep a firm grip on your sticks, mainly with your thumb and pointer finger. There shouldn't be a gap between these two fingers and the stick.
- Instead of pulling the stick off the head after each stroke, think of letting the stick bounce back up on its own, as if you were bouncing a basketball. This may require a looser grip with the fingers on the bottom of the stick.

Instrument Care

- You can care for your drum by wiping it down with a soft cloth regularly after use.
- Ask for help from your director or a professional to tune your drum, do not attempt to tune your drum on your own. Overtightening can tear drumheads.
- Store your drum in a cool, dry place.
- The strainer mechanism may need oiled occasionally. If it seems stuck, lifting from the bottom of the mechanism may sometimes help.

Let's Play!



fermata

“Keep holding the note until
your conductor indicates
for you to stop”

REST

For a musician, a rest isn't a break,
we're always counting or watching the
conductor to see when we get to play again!

F

REST

R R R R R R R R R R R R

REST

E_b

REST

L L L L L L L L L L L L

REST

D

Treble clef musical staff with three notes and two rests. The notes are open circles on the 4th, 2nd, and 4th lines. The rests are black rectangles with the word "REST" written in white.

R L R L

R L R L

R L R L

Treble clef musical staff with three groups of three notes each, separated by rests. The notes are solid black circles. The rests are black rectangles with the word "REST" written in white.

C

Treble clef musical staff with three notes and two rests. The notes are open circles on the 4th, 2nd, and 4th lines. The rests are black rectangles with the word "REST" written in white.

R R L L

R R L L

R R L L

Treble clef musical staff with three groups of four notes each, separated by rests. The notes are solid black circles. The rests are black rectangles with the word "REST" written in white.

Bb

Treble clef musical staff with three notes and two rests. The notes are open circles on the 4th, 2nd, and 4th lines. The rests are black rectangles with the word "REST" written in white.

R L R R

R L R R

R L R R

Treble clef musical staff with three groups of four notes each, separated by rests. The notes are solid black circles. The rests are black rectangles with the word "REST" written in white.

Instruments



Suspended Cymbal

You can get many sounds out of a cymbal! Start off using the tip of your snare drum stick near the edge of the cymbal.

multimeasure rests

Count multiple full measure rests:

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

mf
mezzo forte
“medium loud”

music theory



quarter note
gets 1 beat
quarter rest
count 1 beat

1

Lift Off



R R R R

L L L L

R R R R

L L L L

mf

2

Around The Room



R

L

R

L

R

L

R

* if a dynamic marking is not listed, mezzo forte is implied

3

Stargazing



R

L

L

L

R

L

L

L

R

L

L

L

L

time signature

4 *beats in a measure*
4 *quarter note gets the beat*

“Piston” Stroke

When you throw the stick down, the tip should bounce back up like a basketball. Only let the stick come up about four inches

4

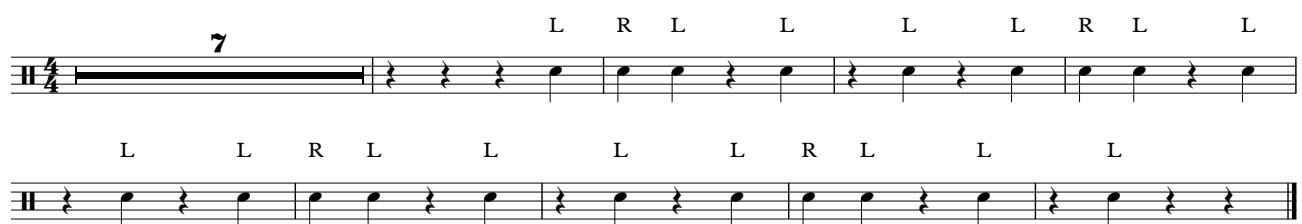
Oracle

R L R



5

Interstellar



6

Memory

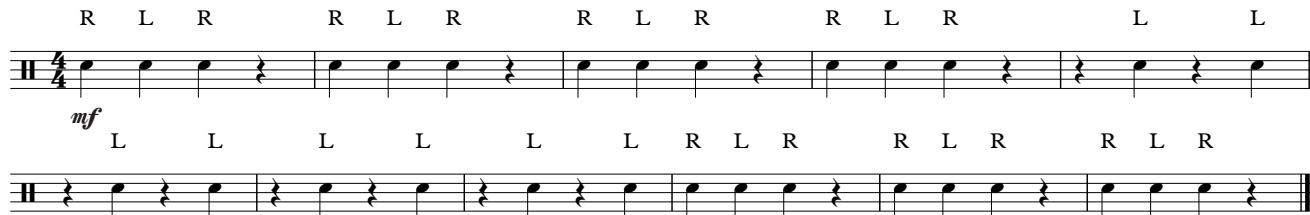
Sus Cymbal



7

Three Note Funk

R

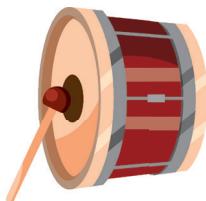


Herbie Hancock is an American pianist that during his time with the Miles Davis Quintet, started playing jazz piano like no one ever had before. He was one of the inventors of a new subgenre of jazz called “Post-Bop”.



“Watermelon Man” by Herbie Hancock

Instruments



Bass Drum

Bass Drums should be played using a special bass drum mallet. Strike the drum head half way between the center and edge of the drum head.

mezzo piano
“medium soft”

music theory



half note

sustain sound 2 beats



half rest

count 2 beats rest

8

Au Claire de la Lune

Welsh Folk Song



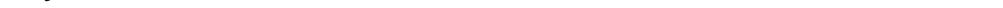
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Cardiff By The Sea

Suspended Cymbal

French Folk Song





A musical score for the Suspended Cymbal. It consists of a single staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef. The staff is filled with a continuous pattern of eighth-note pairs, representing the rhythmic pattern of the cymbal. The notes are grouped into pairs by vertical stems. The score is titled "Suspended Cymbal" at the top left.

10

Hot Cross Buns

English Folk Song



Sheet music for the first line of 'The Star-Spangled Banner'. The music is in common time, key of G major, and consists of two staves. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a sharp sign, and a common time signature. The second staff starts with a bass clef, a sharp sign, and a common time signature. The lyrics are: "R L R L R L R L R L R L R L L R L L R L L R". The music features eighth-note patterns and rests.

repeat sign

||: go back to the beginning,
or another repeat sign

Single Stroke Roll

R L R L R L R L

**11****Country Walk**

R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L



French Folk Song

12**Merrily We Roll Along**

Charlie Tobias

**13****Down By The Station**

Traditional

R R L R R L L R R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

**Ola Gjeilo**

Ola Gjeilo is a Norwegian composer and pianist currently residing in Manhattan. He is primarily a choral **composer**, meaning he writes pieces of music to be sung by choirs. He is best known for his works "Dreamweaver" and "The River".

**"Still" by Ola Gjeilo**

Instruments



Triangle

Use a special mallet to play the triangle. Always hold it up high and strike the middle of the bottom bar.



piano

“soft”

music theory



whole note
sustain sound 4 beats



whole rest
count 4 beats rest

14

Stodola Pumpa



Czech Folk Song

R L R R L R R L R L R L R L R

l R L 1. R L R l R L 2. R L R

R L R R L R R L R L R R L R L R L R L R R L R L l R R L

15

Jingle Bells



James Lord Pierpont

R L R R L R R L R L R R L R L R L R L R R L R L l R R L

mf

R L R R L R R L R L R R L R L R L R L R R L R L l R L R

R L R R L R R L R L R R L R L R L R L R R L R L l R L R

16

Go Tell Aunt Rhody



Triangle

American Folk Song

R R L R R R L R L R R R L R R R L R L R

p

mf

1st and 2nd Endings

some repeats indicate
a different ending to
play for each time
through

Flam

L R R L

**17** *Jasmine Flower*

Triangle

mp

Chinese Folk Song

**18** *Surprise Symphony*

Joseph Haydn

**19** *Mary Ann*

Jamaican Folk Song

***The Kronos Quartet***

The Kronos Quartet is a string quartet based in San Francisco. A **quartet** is a musical ensemble consisting of four musicians. Kronos has been in existence since 1973 and has had over nine hundred musical pieces composed for them.

***“Lux Aeterna” by The Kronos Quartet***

Instruments



2 beats in a measure
4 quarter note gets the beat

Crash Cymbals

Cymbals are also crashed together. Hold one in front of you facing up and let the other crash down on top.



music theory



cresc.

crescendo
gradually get louder

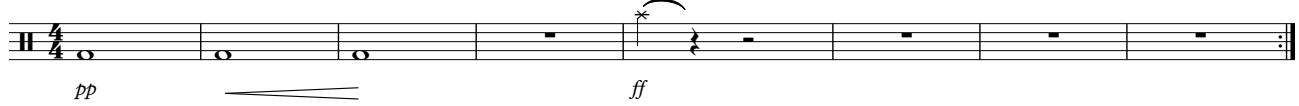


decresc.

decrescendo
gradually get softer

20 *Also Sprach Zarathustra*

Richard Strauss



21 Ha'Kyo Jung

Korean Folk Song



22 Rondo alla Turca

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart



pick up notes



notes that happen
before the first full
measure

Flam Tap

13



Finnish Folk Song

23

Good King Wenceslas

L R R r L L L R R r L L r L L R



24

The Bridge At Avignon

L R R r L L L R R r L L r L L R

R L L R R r L L L R L R R r L L L R R L R R L



25

Up On The Housetop

Benjamin Hanby

* See if you can spot the flam taps. Write in the stickings yourself!

mf

mp

mf



Aretha Franklin

Aretha Franklin was a vocalist and pianist who is still regarded today as the "Queen of Soul".

Soul is a style of music that combines elements of gospel, rhythm and blues and jazz and became popular in the U.S. in the 1950s and 60s.

26

A Tisket A Tasket

American Folk Song



mf

mp

mf

Instruments



Tenor Drum

A tenor drum is like a snare drum but deeper and usually does not have snares attached. If you don't have one, try turning off the snares on your drum.



"common time"

another way of indicating $\frac{4}{4}$ time

27

Mary Had A Little Lamb

American Folk Song



R L R R L R L L R L R R L R L L R L R R L R L

28

Jolly Old Saint Nicholas

James R. Murray, words by Emily Clark Huntington Miller



R L R R L R L L R L R R L R L R R L R L R R
mf 1. R L R R L 2. R L R R L R L R R L R L R R

29

Love Somebody

Joan Whitney, Alex Kramer



Andante R L R L R R L L R L R L L R R L R L R L L R

tempo - how fast or slow to play

Andante

Moderato

Allegro fast

Paradiddle

R L R R L R L L



30 *Dredyl, Dredyl* Allegro

Israeli Folk Song



21 London Bridge

English Folk Song



32 Amigas

Hispanic Folk Song

10 Tenor Drum * if a tempo marking is not listed, Moderato is implied



Edward Kennedy “Duke” Ellington was a **prolific** jazz composer, meaning he wrote a great number of jazz compositions, many which are still considered ‘standards’ today. The “Duke” helped propel jazz to being regarded on the same level as classical music.



“Mood Indigo” by Duke Ellington

Instruments



Bongos

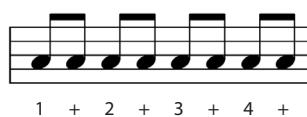
Bongos are a small pair of "open bottom" drums. You can play them with or without sticks. If you don't have Bongos, you could use Tom-Toms.

ff
fortissimo

“very loud”

music theory

eighth notes



*two eighth notes
fit equally into
each beat*



“Cantaloupe Island” by Herbie Hancock

33^o

Old Macdonald

British Folk Song



34th


Ezekiel Saw The Wheel

African American Spiritual



3 *beats in a measure*
4 *quarter note gets the beat*

Double Paradiddle

R L R L R R L R L R L L



35 *Bonjour Mes Amis*

French Folk Song



36 Chiapanecas

Mexican Folk Song



37 *Goodbye Old Paint*

Charley Willis



A musical score for two staves in 3/4 time. The top staff uses a treble clef and the bottom staff uses a bass clef. Both staves feature a continuous eighth-note pattern. The top staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#), while the bottom staff has a key signature of one flat (B-flat). Measure lines are present at the beginning and end of the score.



Miles Davis was an American trumpeter and bandleader that became one of the most influential figures in 20th century music. Throughout his career he continued to innovate and find new ways to play the trumpet and compose music.



“All Blues” by Miles Davis

Instruments



Wood Block

Wood blocks come in many shapes and sizes and should be played with a drumstick or mallet. Strike near the center of the block for the fullest sound.

s
f
z

sfortzando piano
“attack the note forte
and hold it piano”

music theory



dotted half note

when a dot is placed beside a note it adds half the original value to the note.

Dotted half notes get 3 beats.

38

Theme from Symphony No. 1

Andante



Johannes Brahms

39

Roses

Wood Block



Hispanic Folk Song

40

Oranges and Lemons

Allegro



English Folk Song

articulation - a special way to play a note
 >
 accent
 emphasized

41 "Spring" from *Four Seasons*



A musical staff with a key signature of two sharps and a common time signature.



Minka, Minka
Allegro



Flam Accent

L R L R r L R L



Antonio Vivaldi

“Spring” from Four Seasons

Allegro

Isham Jones

42 *It Had To Be You*

It Had To Be You



Minka, Minka
Allegro

Minka, Minka

Ukrainian Folk Song



Samuel Barber was one of the most celebrated American composers of the 20th century. While many composers of the time were experimenting with new harmonies, Samuel chose notes in his compositions that more reflected a 19th-century harmonic understanding.



“Adagio For Strings” by Samuel Barber

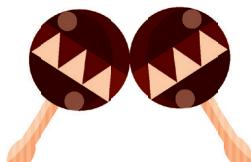


“Bye, Bye Birdie” by Charles Strouse



“Freddie Freeloader” by Miles Davis

Instruments



Maracas

Maracas are a type of rattle that are meant to be shaken to the beat. If you don't have Maracas you could also use a "shaker".

Paradiddle Diddle

R L R L R R L R L R L L



eighth rest
rest half a beat

music theory



eighth note runs

When multiple eighth note pairs occur in a row they maintain the same rhythm and timing. Keep your air going!

44

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star



English Folk Song

45

"Morning" from Peer Gynt

Wood Block



Edvard Grieg

46

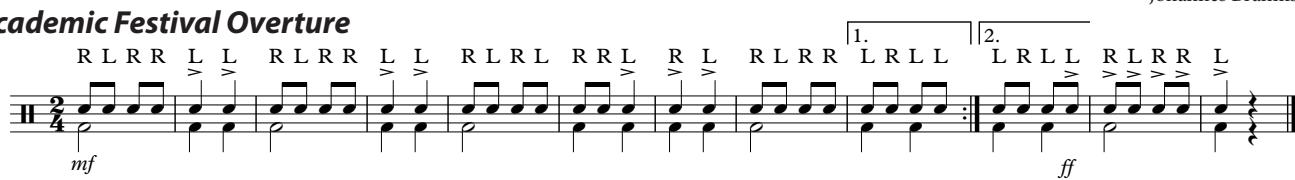
Frere Jacques



French Folk Song

47

Academic Festival Overture



Johannes Brahms

48 Lo Yisa Goy

Israeli Folk Song



40 *Skip To My Lou*

American Folk Song



50 *Sakura*

Japanese Folk Song



Musical score for Sus Cymbal, Japanese Folk Song. The score consists of two staves in 4/4 time. The top staff uses a treble clef and the bottom staff uses a bass clef. The music is primarily composed of eighth-note patterns. The title 'Sus Cymbal' is written above the top staff, and 'Japanese Folk Song' is written above the bottom staff.



Johann Sebastian Bach was a German composer and probably the most recognizable composer of the Baroque Era. The **Baroque Era** was the musical time period in Western Music between 1600-1750 and happened right before the Classical Era.

51 *Musette*

Musette

Allegro



Instruments



Conga

A conga is a larger version of the bongos and should usually be played with the hands. You can get many different sounds depending on how you form your hands!

“syncopated” rhythms
rhythms that emphasize
the “& count” or weak beat



fp

forte piano

“attack the phrase forte
and continue at piano”

53 Tzena, Tzena



Jewish Folk Song

54 San Sereni



Spanish Folk Song

55 Prince Of Denmark's March

Andante



Henry Wood

56 Little Donkey

Eric Boswell



57 Ode To Joy

Ludwig van Beethoven



dotted quarter note

Just like dotted half notes, a dotted quarter gets an extra half of the original value. Getting one and a half beats puts the note or rest after it on the "up" beat or "& count".

"Buzz" Strokes

RR LL

**58***Arirang*

Korean Folk Song

59*"Largo" from Symphony No. 1*

Anton Dvorak

60*Kum Ba Yah*

Andante



African American Spiritual

61*Hey Ho, Nobody's Home*

English Folk Song


**Bette Midler**

Bette Midler is an American singer and songwriter who made her motion picture debut in the 1979 film "The Rose". Her recording of the title song became a chart hit and helped propel her award-winning career in showbusiness of over half a century.

***"The Rose"* written by Amanda McBroom**

Instruments

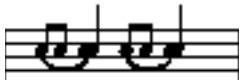


Tambourine

Start off playing the tambourine by holding it flat in front of you. Strike the head on top using three fingers together.

Drag

LL R RR L



D.C. al Coda

D.C. or "da capo" al Coda means to go to the beginning and then go to the Coda. After playing the measure that says "To Coda" jump to the measure with the Coda sign.

62

The Charleston

Allegro

James P. Johnson



63

Aloha Oe

Lili'uokalani



64

Loch Lomond

Scottish Folk Song



65

Maple Leaf Rag

Allegro



Scott Joplin

66

El Juego Chrimbolo

Spanish Folk Song



Sheet music for 'The Star-Spangled Banner' in 2/4 time. The top staff shows the vocal line with lyrics: 'LL R RR L R L R L R L R R L R L R L R L R L L'. The bottom staff shows a bass line with lyrics: 'R L L R L L R L R L ll R rr L R L R L R R'. The music consists of two staves, each with four measures. The vocal line uses eighth and sixteenth notes, while the bass line uses eighth and sixteenth notes with a bass clef.

67

Rock A My Soul

African American Spiritual



68

Give My Regards To Broadway

George M. Cohan



Billie Holiday was a celebrated jazz and swing vocalist who would influence pop singing for decades to come. Her vocal style was greatly influenced by the sounds of jazz instrumentalists.



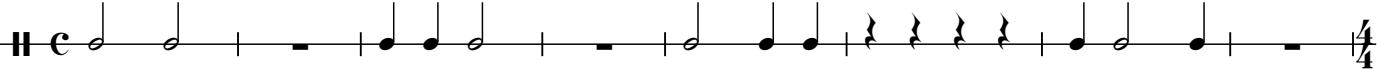
“God Bless The Child” by Billie Holiday

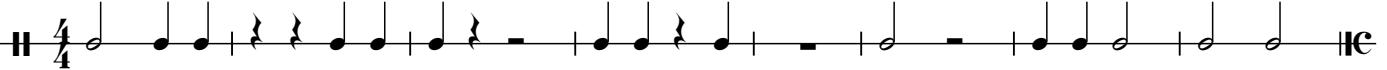
Rhythm Reading

1 

2 

3 

4 

5 

6 

7 

8 

9 

10 