

PERCUSSIVE ARTS SOCIETY
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
KEYBOARD RESOURCES



Mallet Fundamentals by Emma Kieselhorst- This video explores topics including transitioning from two mallet grip to four mallet grip, posture behind the instrument, and some of the more basic stroke types.



PAS Classroom YouTube Playlist- This playlist includes videos on a variety of mallet topics as well as other general percussion topics as well.

Sample Marimba Technique Exercise Packet

Standard Double Verticals

Repeat this pattern for all major and minor intervals as desired

Note- if playing on an instrument that is not a five octave, start this exercise an octave above your instrument's lowest note.

Marimba

RH

LH

4

M

Double Vertical Interval Changes #1 (Extreme Changes)

Note: the octave interval in your left hand should be your instrument's lowest note.

8

M

RH

LH

Double Vertical Interval Changes #2 (Gradual Changes)

Note: your left hand should start on your instrument's lowest note and your right hand should start an octave above that.

12

M

RH

15

M

19

M

LH

21

22

M

Single Independents with Interval Changes

Note: your left hand should start on your instrument's lowest note and your right hand should start an octave above that.

M

4 3 4 3

1 2 1 2

M

M

M

M

M

(Repeat as a 4,1,3,2 permutation in sixteenth notes or with triplets and sixteenth notes as desired).

Lateral Strokes-Small Intervals

Follow this pattern for each variation of double and triple laterals

M

50

1 2 4 3

M

M

M

M

Lateral Strokes-Large Intervals

Follow this pattern for each variation of double and triple laterals

Note: start this exercise with your left hand on your instrument's P5 interval.

M

64

1 2 4 3

4
67
M

Four Mallet Marimba

First Pieces - Medium Difficulty

Sample Repertoire List

Often, many people stunt their technical and musical development by attempting to play pieces too early. This can cause undue frustration and in some cases can lead to burnout. The following list contains suggestions for players just learning how to hold the mallets as well as some more aggressive literature choices for first year players. All of the pieces on this list can be purchased from most major percussion music stores. While this list is certainly not exhaustive, the hope is that it will give younger players options they have not thought about.

First Pieces:

- First Steps for Solo Marimba, by Robert Clayson (collection)
- Five Miniatures for Solo Marimba, by Kyle Peters (collection)
- Image, by Bart Quartier (collection)
- June Bug, by Andrew Smit
- Marimba Miniatures, by Robert Clayson (collection)
- Marimba: Technique Through Music, by Mark Ford (collection)
- The Offering, by Michael Burritt
- Sequential Studies books 1 and 2 by Julia Gaines (collection)
- Spinning Yarns, by Matthew Weyer (collection)

Easy:

- Dream Sequence 1-3 by Tracy Thomas (individual stand alone pieces)
- Echoes, by Kevin Bobo
- First Impressions, by Andrew Patzig
- Marshmellow, by David Friedman
- To Reflect is to Learn, by Kit Mills
- Pixel Pop!, by Matt Moore

Medium:

- A Cricket Sang and Set the Sun, by Blake Tyson
- A Pleasing Trip, by Koen Wilmaers
- Four Rotations for Marimba, by Eric Sammut
- Ghost Garden, by Adam Hopper
- Like a Burden too Heavy, by Brian Blume
- Madison's Unicorn, by Brett Dietz
- Monograph IV, by Richard Gipson
- Nine Miniatures and a Fantasy, by Brett Dietz (collection)
- Nocturnal Dance, by Jesse Monkman
- Not Far from Here, by Blake Tyson
- Peach Dance, by Gordon Stout
- Preludes 1-5, by Michael Burritt (collection)
- Restless, by Rich O'mera
- Strive to be Happy, by Ivan Trevino
- Three Preludes, by Ney Rosauero
- Virginia Tate, by Paul Smadbeck

Simple Song

Robert Clayson

Resonantly with Rubato ♩ = 90

Marimba

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

9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20

21 22 23 24 rit. p

25 26 27 a tempo

To hear a recording of this piece, please scan the following QR code.

