

Contents

Audio Index	6
About the Author	7
Introduction	9
A Brief History	10
Notation Key	12
Conga Sizes	13
Tuning	14
Playing Positions: Sitting and Standing	15
Let's Get Started	16
Your Hands	17
The Sounds	18
The Open Tone	18
The Muted Slap	19
The Open Slap	19
The Heel-Fingers Motion	19
The Bass Tone	20
The Muffled Tone	20
Basic Notation	21
Note and Rest Values	23
Basic Reading Exercises	24
Sound Developing Exercises	31
Open Tones	31
Muted Slaps	32
Bass Tone	33
Heel-Fingers Motion	34
Open Slaps	35
The Clave	37
Son Clave	37
Rumba Clave	37
6/8 Clave	38
Preliminary Exercises	39
Conga Drum Patterns	41
Patterns from Cuba	41
Patterns from Puerto Rico	43
Patterns from Santo Domingo.....	44
Pop, Rock, R&B, and Funk	45
Pop, Rock, R&B, and Funk Patterns for One Conga	46
Drum Set and Congas	47
The High School Band	53
Independence Exercises	56
Mis Tres Hijos Play-Along	57
Additional Credits	58
Reference	59
Available from Richie	59
Spanish Translation: Texto En Español	63

Audio Index

Track	Title	Track	Title
1	Notes and Their Values, Ex. 1–7	58	Rock/Pop/R&B/Funk Patterns for One Conga, Ex. 4
2	Notes and Rests	59	Rock/Pop/R&B/Funk Patterns for One Conga, Ex. 5
3	Eighth Notes and Rests	60	“Fields of Gold”w/Congas
4	Quarter & Eighth Notes and Rests	61	“Fields of Gold”wo/Congas (play-along)
5	Sixteenth Notes	62	“La Vida Loca”w/Congas
6	One Eighth & Two Sixteenths	63	“La Vida Loca”wo/Congas (play-along)
7	Two Sixteenths & One Eighth Note	64	“If You Had My Love”w/Congas
8	Dotted Eighth-One Sixteenth	65	“If You Had My Love”wo/Congas (play-along)
9	Triplets	66	“Sex Machine”w/Congas
10	Combining Quarters, Eighths, Sixteenths	67	“Sex Machine”wo/Congas (play-along)
11	Combining Quarters, Eighths-Sixteenths One-Eighth	68	“Unchain My Heart”w/Congas
12	Adding Two-Sixteenth-One-Eighth, Three Rests	69	“Unchain My Heart”wo/Congas (play-along)
13	Adding the Dotted Eighth-One-Sixteenth	70	“Two Hearts”w/Congas
14	Adding Triplets & Rests	71	“Two Hearts”wo/Congas (play-along)
15	6/8	72	“Give Up the Funk”w/Congas
16	5/8	73	“Give Up the Funk”wo/Congas (play-along)
17	7/8	74	“Disco Groove”w/Congas
18	Open Tone, Ex. 1–5	75	“Disco Groove”wo/Congas (play-along)
19	Slaps, Ex. 1–5	76	“Seven Days”w/Congas
20	Bass Tone	77	“Seven Days”wo/Congas (play-along)
21	Heels Fingers	78	“Homemade 7”w/Congas
22	Open Slaps	79	“Homemade 7”wo/Congas (play-along)
23	One Conga, Ex. 1	80	“High School” Swing Groove
24	One Conga, Ex. 2	81	“High School” BeBop Groove
25	One Conga, Ex. 3	82	“High School” Rock & Roll Groove
26	One Conga, Ex. 4	83	“High School” Shuffle Groove
27	One Conga, Ex. 5	84	“High School” Sixteenth Note Funky Groove
28	One Conga, Ex. 6 Old Tumbaó	85	“Perc Independence”(Tumbaó One Drum)
29	One Conga, Ex. 7 Contemporary	86	“Perc Independence”(w/Cowbell)
30	Two Congas, Ex. 8 Adding the Tumba	87	“Perc Independence”(w/Shaker)
31	Two Congas, Ex. 9	88	“Perc Independence”(w/Tambourine)
32	Two Congas, Ex. 10	89	“Mis Tres Hijos”w/Congas
33	Challenge Exercise (all exercises in succession)	90	“Mis Tres Hijos”wo/Congas (play-along)
34	Patterns Cuba, Ex. 1	91	“Guajira Pa Lissete”w/Congas
35	Patterns Cuba, Ex. 2-Variation 1	92	“Guajira Pa Lissete”wo/Congas (play-along)
36	Patterns Cuba, Ex. 3-Variation 2	93	“Gozando Y Caminando”w/Congas
37	Patterns Cuba, Ex. 4-Variation 3	94	“Gozando Y Caminando”wo/Congas (play-along)
38	Patterns Cuba, Ex. 5-Variation 4	95	“El Meneito”w/Congas
39	Bolero, Ex. 6	96	“El Meneito”wo/Congas (play-along)
40	Guajira, Ex. 7	97	“Sabroson”w/Congas
41	Songo, Ex. 8	98	“Sabroson”wo/Congas (play-along)
42	Songo Variation, Ex. 9	99	“Techno Me”w/Congas
43	Guaguancó 3/2, Ex. 10	100	“Techno Me”wo/Congas (play-along)
44	Puerto Rico Plena, Ex.11	101	“Full Moon”w/Congas
45	Puerto Rico Bomba Xica, Ex. 12	102	“Full Moon”wo/Congas (play-along)
46	Puerto Rico Jibaro, Ex. 13	103	“Shoe On Me”w/Congas
47	Puerto Rico Salsa, Ex. 14	104	“Shoe On Me”wo/Congas (play-along)
48	Puerto Rico Bomba Holandes	105	“Faldo”w/Congas
49	Santo Domingo Merengue Patterns	106	“Faldo”wo/Congas (play-along)
50	Merengue with Stick	107	“Lenny Kravitz”w/Congas
51	Merengue Accompaniment to the Tambora Part	108	“Lenny Kravitz”wo/Congas (play-along)
52	Merengue Ex. 2 and 3 Parts Together	109	“Lou Kev”w/Congas
53	Merengue Ex. 2 Conga Accompaniment to the Tambora	110	“Lou Kev”wo/Congas (play-along)
54	Merengue Variation	111	“Symfonico”w/Congas
55	Rock/Pop/R&B/Funk Patterns for One Conga, Ex. 1	112	“Symfonico”wo/Congas (play-along)
56	Rock/Pop/R&B/Funk Patterns for One Conga, Ex. 2	113	“Rock Ya”w/Congas
57	Rock/Pop/R&B/Funk Patterns for One Conga, Ex. 3	114	“Rock Ya”wo/Congas (play-along)

Basic Notation

In this section you will begin to learn the notes and their values. You will be studying only the note values used in the exercises in this book. I do suggest that you find an easy snare drum book to practice from in order to expand your reading further. Reading rhythm is like learning simple math; once you know what the values are, you are able to perform the function.

Before you look at the notes, observe a few things. The group of five horizontal lines where the notes are placed is called a staff (Ex. 1). In the staff are boxes, which are called measures or bars (Ex. 2). The more notes you have in a particular time signature, the more bars will be added to accommodate the patterns being played.

On this page there are three staffs containing two bars each, which are divided by the bar line. Every staff begins with several notations. First, the clef sign tells you what instruments the music is written for, like the piano, bass, drums, sax, or voice, and so on. The piano has a double staff that contains the treble and bass clef signs (Ex. 2 and 3) to indicate the high and low section of the keyboard to be played. Percussion and many other instruments use only one staff with the appropriate markings. Percussion may use the percussion clef sign (Ex. 4). It is also very common to see the bass clef used for percussion, as well as many other instruments. The choice of clef is dictated by whether the percussion is pitched or not.

Other indications are the time signature (Ex. 5); key signature (not included here), in which a melodic instrument is to be played; and dynamic markings (soft, medium, loud) that would be required for a particular piece.

