

Dynamic Solos for Mallets

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Countdown

Drummers are counted upon to supply solid, accurate rhythms. Mallet players must do the same, while also deciphering pitches. The tempo below is two beats per second. Count, look ahead, don't stop . . . and watch for dynamics!

♩ = 120

The musical score consists of eight staves of music in 4/4 time, with a tempo of 120 beats per minute (♩ = 120). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The melody descends from the first staff to the eighth. Dynamics range from fortissimo (ff) to piano (p). Articulation includes accents (>) and breath marks (v). Slurs are used to group notes in several measures.

Staff 1: *ff*, accents on measures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

Staff 2: *f*, measure 5.

Staff 3: *mp*, measure 9.

Staff 4: *mf*, measures 13, 14, 15, 16.

Staff 5: *p*, measure 17.

Staff 6: measure 21.

Staff 7: *mp*, measure 25; *mf*, measure 26.

Staff 8: *f*, measure 29; *ff*, measure 32.

High Octane

Playing large intervals, such as octaves, can be tricky while reading music. Use your peripheral vision and utilize the gaps in the upper keyboard as additional reference points for locating notes on the lower keyboard. Keep your hands low to the playing surface to maximize your accuracy.

♩ = 116

The musical score consists of nine staves of music in 2/4 time, with a tempo of 116 beats per minute. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The dynamics and articulations are as follows:

- Staff 1: *f* (forte)
- Staff 2: *mp* (mezzo-piano)
- Staff 3: *mf* (mezzo-forte), ending with a fermata.
- Staff 4: *p* (piano), featuring accents (>) and breath marks (v) on several notes.
- Staff 5: First ending (1.) and second ending (2.), with dynamics *f* and *ff* (fortissimo).
- Staff 6: *f* (forte)
- Staff 7: *f* (forte)
- Staff 8: *f* (forte)
- Staff 9: *mp* (mezzo-piano), ending with a fermata.