

# Ready? Set? Play!

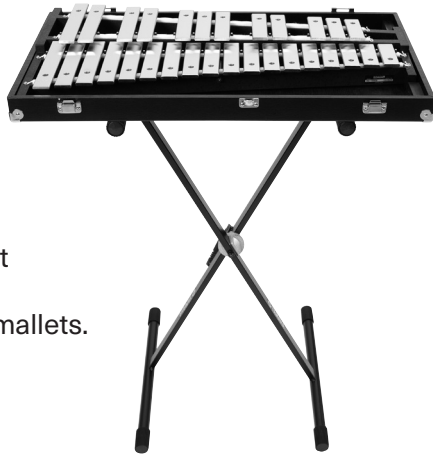
Sound advice for getting started on your instrument

## YOUR INSTRUMENT—KEYBOARD (MALLET) PERCUSSION

The keyboard percussion family includes orchestra bells, xylophone, marimba, vibraphone, and chimes. Each instrument is arranged chromatically in two rows similar to a piano keyboard. Because of the different materials used, each instrument has a unique sound. Since few of the keyboard percussion instruments have been standardized in range, the most practical ranges for school use are listed below. When in doubt of which mallet to use, consult with your director.

### ORCHESTRA

**BELLS** (also called Bells or Glockenspiel)  
Although some student bell kits are 1½ octaves, the standard range is 2½ octaves. The instrument is played with brass, plastic, or hard-rubber mallets.



### MARIMBA

The most practical range is either a 4 or 4½ octave instrument. It is played with yarn, cord-wound, or rubber mallets. Do not use wood, plastic, or metal mallets!



### XYLOPHONE

The most practical range is either a 3 or 3½ octave instrument. It is played with hard-rubber or plastic mallets. Do not use metal mallets!



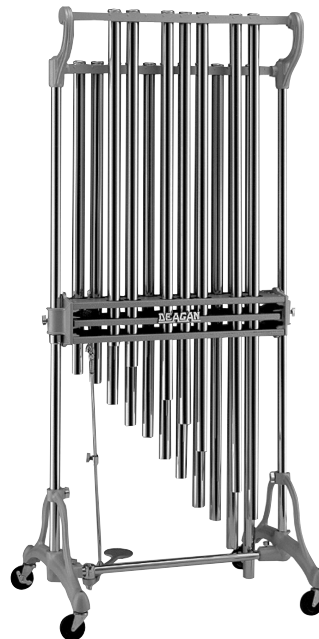
### VIBRAPHONE (also called Vibraharp)

The standard range for this instrument is 3 octaves. It is played with yarn and cord-wound mallets. Do not use brass mallets! A foot-operated damper pedal controls the sustain.



### CHIMES

(also called Tubular Bells)  
The standard range for this instrument is 1½ octaves. It is played by striking the ridge of the cap at the top of each tube with a hammer-shaped mallet made of rawhide. A foot-operated damper pedal controls the sustain.



## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

- A. Use a cloth to keep your mallet instruments clean. The use of furniture polish on wooden bars should be avoided as it will leave a residue. When not in use, the instruments should be covered.
- B. Mallets should be stored in a bag with your sticks.
- C. Other than mallets, do not set anything on top of a keyboard instrument. It is not a table!



- ▶ *Instruments*
- ▶ *Care & Maintenance*

# Level 2: Sound Fundamentals



## NEW RUDIMENT

The **FLAM** is a combination of a small note (grace note) and a main note. To play a flam, position one stick close to the drumhead (2–3 inches) and one stick above the drumhead (8–10 inches). Bring both sticks down at the same speed.

L R R L L R R L

**OUR SIXTH NOTE**—When playing along with the recorded accompaniment, play the eighth notes in a swing style.

34

**TWINKLING STARS**—Play this familiar melody using the triangle.

Adapted by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

35

Tri.

(muffle)

(keep going to the next staff)

36

**JOLLY OLD ST. NICK**—Clap the rhythms, then play.

Traditional Carol

A

B

## New Time Signature (Meter) $\frac{2}{4}$ TIME

$\frac{2}{4}$  = Two beats (counts) per measure.  
 $\frac{2}{4}$  = A quarter note receives one beat (count).

## RHYTHMS IN $\frac{2}{4}$ —Clap the rhythm while counting the beats aloud.

1 + 2 + 1 + 2 + 1 + 2 + 1 + 2 +

**TWO-FOUR OUT THE DOOR**—This exercise has two beats per measure. Remember to bring both sticks down at the same speed.

37

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

1 + 2 + 1 + 2 +

**LONDON BRIDGE**—When playing along with the recorded accompaniment, play the eighth notes in a swing style.

English Folk Song

38

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

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

## TWO-FOUR OLD MAC

Traditional

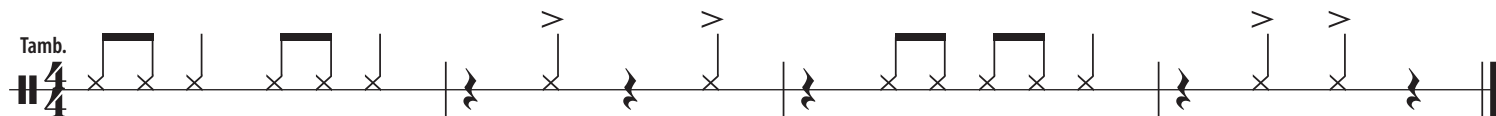
39

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

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

# Level 3: Sound Musicianship

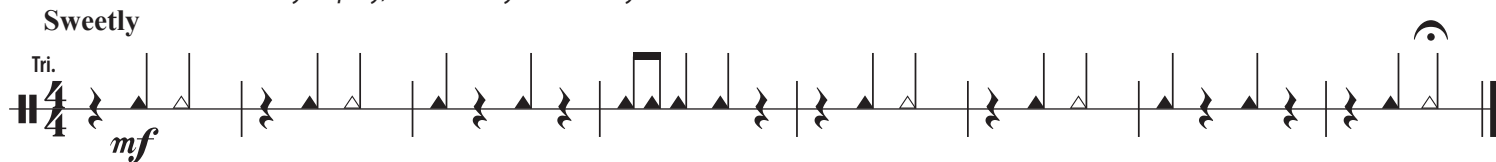
## SOUNDS NEW!

77 **Tamb.** 

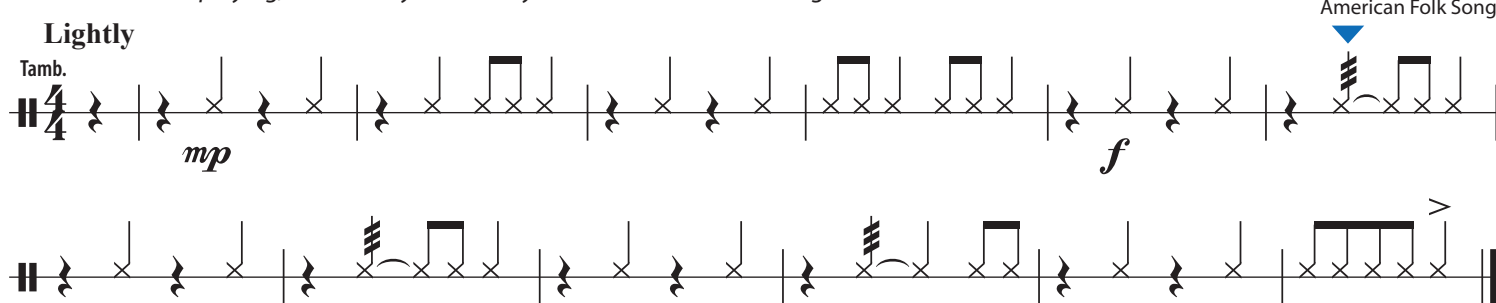
**STYLE MARKINGS** are sometimes used instead of tempo markings to help musicians understand the feeling the composer would like the music to convey.

The most common type of **TAMBOURINE ROLL** is the shake roll. Hold the tambourine in either hand and shake it by rapidly rotating the wrist back and forth. Most rolls start and stop with a strike on the head.

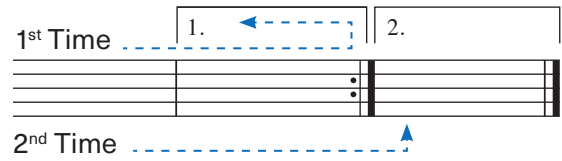
### WAY UP HIGH—Before you play, discuss ways in which you can make this sound “sweet.”

78 **Tri.** *Sweetly*  *mf*

### BINGO—Before playing, discuss ways in which you can make this sound “light.”

79 **Tamb.** *Lightly*  *mp* *f* **American Folk Song**

**1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup> ENDINGS:** Play the 1<sup>st</sup> ending the first time through. Repeat the music, but skip over the 1<sup>st</sup> ending on the repeat and play the 2<sup>nd</sup> ending instead.



### EARLY ONE MORNING—Since this is played gently, consider your style and expression. Watch the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> endings.

80 *Gently*  *mp* *mf* **> (Paradiddle)** 1. 2. **>**

### MUSETTE—Here is a tune to play just for fun!

81 *Andante*  *mf* *mp* 1. 2.

Johann Sebastian Bach