### RWS Infinity Percussion Series

# Duets for Snare and Bass Vol. 1

### Mike Hansen & Mitchell Beckman

**Duets for Snare and Bass** is a collection of nine duets for Concert Snare Drum and Concert Bass Drum designed to explore the musical and expressive potential of one of percussion's most foundational pairings. Each duet presents its own unique rhythmic character, offering a range of challenges in dynamics, articulation, ensemble timing, and stylistic nuance. From groove-oriented interplay to delicate call-and-response phrases, the duets emphasize communication between players and the development of a unified musical voice.

The eight duets progress in difficulty, offering a range of content from beginner through advanced making them ideal for developing percussionists at all levels.

While each piece stands on its own, the set progresses in complexity and musical depth, making it ideal for use in private lessons, chamber performances, or recital programming. The simplicity of the instrumentation allows performers to focus on the fundamentals of timing, touch, and phrasing—skills essential to every percussionist.

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# Rising Sun Rising Sun Shared Bass Drum Snare Drum

### **ABOUT THE DUETS**

**Beginners March** (Grade 1) is designed as an entry point for developing percussionists. Set in a steady march tempo, it focuses on foundational playing techniques like consistent quarter-note pulse, clear rhythmic unison, and simple dynamic contrasts. The writing allows both players to build confidence while learning to stay aligned within a traditional march style.

This duet emphasizes listening and ensemble awareness. The snare drum establishes rhythmic clarity, while the bass drum offers weight and support, teaching young players how to anchor and complement one another in performance. It is a straightforward and satisfying way to introduce duet playing.

**Toy Soldier** (Grade 2) evokes the light, animated energy of a marching toy brigade. It leans into clean rhythmic interplay and introduces open and closed roll techniques, giving developing players a chance to explore control and texture without relying on overly complex rhythms.

This duet is also an opportunity to work on shaping dynamics within short phrases, with phrases marked by playful articulations and short bursts of accent-driven motion. While still friendly to younger players, it encourages precision in sticking and a confident sound, building poise and performance readiness.

**Bullet Train** (Grade 3) captures the speed and pulse of modern transportation with a quick pace and syncopated drive. Both parts feature accented patterns, sudden dynamic shifts, and layered rhythmic gestures that require players to think with agility and intention.

Focus students on fast transitions between dynamics, frequent use of rests for clarity, and ensemble timing in moments of unison and call-and-response. As the name suggests, the energy rarely lets up—players must stay focused and in sync from start to finish.

**Studio March** (Grade 3) has a polished, almost cinematic quality to its phrasing. It incorporates rudimental patterns, buzz strokes, and dynamic shaping that demand thoughtful execution. A mix of press rolls, stick shots, and layered phrasing helps students experiment with articulation while staying grounded in a march feel.

This piece challenges players to move seamlessly between traditional and stylized textures. The front half emphasizes coordination and groove, while the second half expands with more detailed rhythms and a satisfying conclusion. It's a great next step for intermediate-level performers.

**King Louis** (Grade 3) combines swagger and flair, channeling a theatrical sense of royalty and pageantry. The use of snares-off textures in the beginning creates a warm tone before returning to crisp articulation. Shifts in dynamic intensity and the use of phrasing patterns make this duet both playful and dramatic.

The piece plays with musical contrast—staccato versus sustain, loud versus soft, and heavy versus light. Encourage performer to embrace its dramatic flair and showmanship while locking into the layered rhythms that create its regal feel.

**On the Battlefield** (Grade 3.5) is commanding and textural, using staccato mallets and a towel-muted bass drum to explore timbre and nuance. The darker tone palette and slower tempo create a serious, grounded mood. Each part is built on layered sticking patterns that test rhythmic consistency and ensemble blend.

There is a cinematic pacing to the piece, moving between moments of tension and release. It teaches players to use restraint, control, and timing to paint a dramatic soundscape. The timbral experimentation adds a layer of sophistication that advanced students will appreciate.

**Rising Sun** (Grade 4.5) blends driving pulse with Talko-inspired textures. The shared bass drum adds a communal, grounded element as both snare players alternate bold strokes and carefully timed accents. The visual and physical spacing between the instruments adds a theatrical layer to the performance.

Rhythmically, this piece is a study in control and energy. Its structure builds tension through repetition and layered rhythms before reaching an explosive finish. This is a great piece for more advanced students looking to push their musical stamina and performance presence.

**Ritmo Del Agua** (Grade 4) translates to "Rhythm of the Water" and is vibrant and expressive work Inspired by South American musical textures. The Bass Drum mimics surdo-style rhythms, laying a low-end groove that supports the Snare Drum's lively patterns. Rimshots, stick drags, and center-to-edge movements expand the expressive range of the drums.

Players will engage with syncopated rhythms and stylistic gestures that nod to traditional Latin percussion. It's not just a rhythmic challenge, it's also about capturing the character of a dance groove and creating flow between the parts, like the movement of water itself.

### **ABOUT THE COMPOSERS**



**Mitchell Beckman**, an accomplished percussion composer from Orlando, Florida, has emerged as a prominent figure in the percussion music world. Currently serving as the Front Ensemble Designer, Caption Head and Arranger for Infinity Percussion, a leading global competitor, Mitchell brings innovation and creativity to his compositions. Alongside his work at Infinity Percussion, Mitchell is a valued full-time musician at Walt Disney World, where his talent and expertise shine in the creation, development, and captivating performances of theme park shows at Walt Disney World, Universal Studios Florida, and SeaWorld Orlando. His rhythmic mastery and ability to captivate audiences have garnered recognition and praise within the entertainment industry. With a strong educational foundation from Rollins College and the University of Florida, Mitchell's commitment to excellence extends to his experience as a former member of the prestigious Boston Crusaders Drum and Bugle Corps. This experience cultivated his precision, discipline, and musicality, which he

seamlessly integrates into his compositions and performances.

As a percussion composer, Mitchell continuously pushes the boundaries of musical expression, leaving a lasting impact with his technical prowess, artistic vision, and rich professional background.

Mitchell is grateful for the unwavering support of his wife, Kristin, and daughter, Madeline, whose encouragement and love have played an invaluable role in his journey.



Mike Hansen, an accomplished musician from Orlando, Florida, has built an impressive career within music entertainment. Devoting himself full-time to both Universal Studios and Walt Disney World's Animal Kingdom, he brings passion and energy to audiences as an Actor/Musician for the percussion street show Beat Builders and world percussion group, Discovery Island Drummers. Additionally, Mike takes pride in his role as the director of Magic Beatz, the renowned NBA drumline for The Orlando Magic. Over the last 15 years he has also performed and consulted creatively with esteemed percussion groups including SeaWorld Orlando's Zancos!, The Groove Chefs, Disney Spring's Society Funk Band, Disney's Toy Band, Universal Orlando's Superstar Parade, Universal Orlando's Mega-Movie Parade, Hawkmoons's UPBEAT, Animal Kingdom's Pandora Drum Circle Swotu Waya, and more.

Beyond performance career, Mike is an influential figure in the world of marching percussion. He plays a vital role as a Designer, Battery Caption Head, and Arranger for Infinity Percussion, a respected organization offering high-quality education to young aspiring musicians. Emphasizing the values of dedication, teamwork, leadership, and sportsmanship, Infinity Percussion nurtures personal growth among its members. Mike's role in shaping the INFINITY and INFINITY 2, showcases his orchestrations, artistic vision, and unwavering passion. Through the years he has also served as a Caption Head/Arranger/Instructor/Consultant for many Central and South Florida schools including: The University of Central Florida, Oviedo HS, Lake Howell HS, Winter Park High School, Seminole HS, Sunlake HS and more. His dedication has been recognized by leading industry brands such as Vic Firth, Zildjian, TAMA, and REMO, who proudly endorse his musical endeavors.

Mike finds his greatest joy in the love and support of his family. He is a devoted husband to his wife, Lindsey, and a loving father to their daughter, Millie-Ann. Balancing his musical pursuits with the responsibilities of fatherhood, Mike's commitment to his family is a testament to his character.

By channeling his passion and expertise, Mike Hansen continues to inspire aspiring musicians, leaving an enduring impact on the world of percussion.



INFINITY PERCUSSION was founded in 2007 by Tom Hurst, John Campese, and Lee Hansen, and was comprised of staff and members of the 2006 WGI Independent Open Class championship ensemble, First Degree (Orlando, FL). From its inception, INFINITY was created for the highest level of performance competition (Independent World Class) and has been a WGI World Class Finalist every year since 2008.

In 2013, the organization welcomed a new ensemble to the Infini-Family - INFINITY 2. Adding a second ensemble to the organization extends to more young performers the opportunity to be a part of INFINITY PERCUSSION and provides the same training, techniques, and culture that is promoted within the World Class ensemble. INFINITY PERCUSSION is an affiliate of Pageantry Arts Concepts, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. As a PAC affiliate, our goal is to provide youth and young adults the opportunity to enhance their performance and musical skills while furthering their knowledge of the marching arts activity in a professional setting.

# **BEGINNERS MARCH**

Grade 1 RWS-2564-00



mf

# **TOY SOLDIER**



## **BULLET TRAIN**

### Grade 3 RWS-2564-00



## STUDIO MARCH

Grade 3 RWS-2564-00

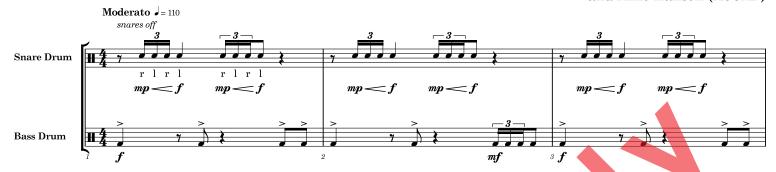


STUDIO MARCH



# KING LOUIS

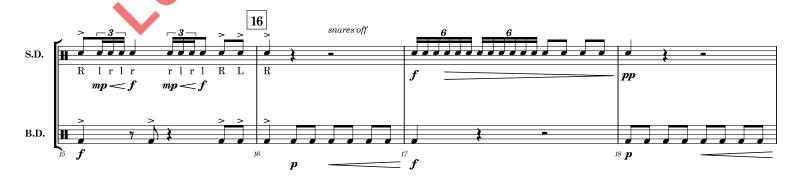
### Grade 3 RWS-2564-00











KING LOUIS 11



### ON THE BATTLEFIELD

Grade 3.5 RWS-2564-00

Mitchell Beckman (ASCAP) and Mike Hansen (ASCAP)



mf



## **RISING SUN**

Grade 4.5 RWS-2564-00



RISING SUN 15



# RITMO DEL AGUA

