

Paradiddles Flams and Why They Matter

Introduction:

Since the hammered dulcimer is a percussion instrument, it makes a lot of sense to approach it as such. We will discuss basic rudiments including the paradiddle and flams. We will encourage counting out measures. We will talk about time signatures. We will also discuss syncopation. We will then learn the Irish Hornpipe “Off to California” and add some syncopation to it.

Basic Rudiments

- Percussive Arts Society forty essential rudiments
<http://www.pas.org/Learn/Rudiments.aspx>
- Alternate right and left hand
- Counting the beat out loud – “one and two and three and four and”
- **Use a metronome!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**
- Keep it even
- Playing a basic single stroke roll – R L R L R L R L
- Playing a double stroke roll – R R L L R R L L
- Playing a controlled multi-bounce roll
- Paradiddle – “down up tap tap down up tap tap” - R L R R L R L L
 - Hints: Play evenly; the rhythm is in the accents
- Double Paradiddle - R L R L R R L R L R L L
- Flams - L**R** R**L** L**R** R**L** L**R** R**L** L**R** R**L**
 - Flam and tap – L**R** R R**L** L L**R** R R**L** L
- Swiss Army triplets
 - Start right – L**R** R L | L**R** R L
 - Start left - R**L** L R | R**L** L R
- Alternating Base - Right hand left hand independence
- A little about time signatures 4/4, 3/4, 6/8
- Approaching tunes using rudiments

Syncopation

- An accent or interruption of the regular flow of rhythm or a placement of rhythmic stresses to embellish a segment of music.
- Simple Example
 - 1 - 2 - 3 - (4) and 1
 - 1 - 2 - (3) and 4 - 1
 - Etc.
- Applying this to your music
- Adding syncopation to a tune: “Off to California”

<http://www.oldmusicproject.com/AA3Sheet/1201-1800/Sheet-1601-1700/1628-OffToCalifornia1st.gif>

"Off To California" (1st Setting) (hornpipe) 1628
 O'Neill's Music Of Ireland (The 1850) Lyon & Healy, Chicago, 1903 Edition.

after Chief O'Neill



Notes: TRANSCRIBED FROM O'NEILL'S TO NOTEWORTHY, FROM NOTEWORTHY TO ABC, MIDI AND .TXT BY VINCE BRENNAN 7-19-03 ([HTTP://WWW.SOSYOURMOM.COM](http://www.sosyourmom.com))

About the Author:

Cliff Cole purchased his first hammered dulcimer in 1985, from Sam Rizzetta. At the time he was playing drums in a blues band. Prior to taking up the dulcimer, he studied drums and percussion for ten years. Since the age of fifteen Cliff has played in numerous rock, blues, jazz, zydeco and folk ensembles. Folk instruments are where the heart is. (Cliff is a member of the Percussive Arts Society)

Cliff plays the hammered dulcimer in the family folk group "DayBreak," which has been together since 1989. They have made several recordings, including "Lost Cave" which was recorded live inside of Lost River Caverns in Hellertown, PA, "Little Steps", and "Autumn Calling," which features many of Cliff's original tunes. They also have produced two Christmas CD's one named "Unity; Unique Music for Christmas" and a live Holiday concert recorded in December of 2002.

DayBreak's music is available on CD-Baby, iTunes and many other digital download stores found on the web.

Cliff also sometimes plays gigs with his lovely daughter, Emily Rose under the name of "Glass Roses". Emily has a strong, beautiful voice, which blends nicely with the dulcimer and guitar. They released a CD named Falling Wings. The CD feature's Emily's voice and some of her original tunes. Emily attends college at Mansfield University. Emily is working on a new CD. She just released a single called May.

Cliff is very active in the folk scene. He is on he board of Perkasio Patchwork Coffeehouse, where he often works the sound board. He also sometimes does sound at Godfrey Daniel's a folk club in Bethlehem, PA. Cliff is also a founding member of the Quakertown Area Dulcimer and Autoharp Society ([QUADAS](http://www.quadas.com).) He has been a workshop leader at many dulcimer festivals through the years.

Cliff's hammered dulcimer was made by James Jones. The full sized 2/16/18/7 instrument covers four octaves and has dampening pedal. For more information about James Jones instruments go to his web site:

<http://www.jamesjonesinstruments.com>

Cliff lives with his lovely wife, Pamela, in Quakertown, Pennsylvania. He works as a computer hardware test engineer for Intel Corporation, which is located in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

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