

Independence / Rudiments / Percussion Technique

Introduction

In this fun workshop participants are expected to already have a working knowledge of left-hand, right-hand independence. After a review of basic "alternating-base" techniques we will delve into to polyrhythms such as 3:2 and 2:3 cross-rhythms (More if time permits). We will explore ways of how syncopation and polyrhythms can find there way into your sticking patterns to make tunes more interesting. We will present a fun and challenging alternating base tune "Fine Spring Day" written by the workshop leader.

Rudiments

Since the HD is a percussion instrument, it is helpful to know the basic percussion rudiments. These include: single-stroke roll, double-stroke roll, flams and paradiddles. A quick review of these will be presented. The full set of the Percussive Arts Society Rudiments can be downloaded from here:

<http://www.pas.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/pasdrumrudiments2015.pdf>

Left hand Right Hand Independence

Left hand, right hand independence is what most percussionists strive for. Some "alternating-base" exercises will be presented in the workshop. Some exercises are available here:

http://www.daybreakfolk.com/Cliff/Hammered%20Dulcimer%20Percussion%20Exercises_2.pdf

Polyrhythms

As defined by Wikipedia:

"Polyrhythm is the simultaneous use of two or more conflicting rhythms, that are not readily perceived as deriving from one another, or as simple manifestations of the same meter. The rhythmic conflict may be the basis of an entire piece of music (cross-rhythm), or a momentary disruption. Polyrhythms can be distinguished from irrational rhythms, which can occur within the context of a single part; polyrhythms require at least two rhythms to be played concurrently, one of which is typically an irrational rhythm."

We will work on some basic polyrhythms in this workshop.

Syncopation

As defined by Wikipedia:

"In music, syncopation involves a variety of rhythms, which are in some way unexpected, which make part or all of a tune or piece of music off-beat. More simply, syncopation is a general term for "a disturbance or interruption of the regular flow of rhythm": a "placement of rhythmic stresses or accents where they wouldn't normally occur." The correlation of at least two sets of time intervals. Also known as an "Uneven movement from bar to bar"."

Fine Spring Day

A tune written by Cliff Cole that generally encompasses the above-mentioned topics.

<http://www.daybreakfolk.com/Cliff/Cliff-Fine%20Spring%20Day.pdf>

About The Author

Cliff Cole fell in love with the hammered dulcimer at the Philadelphia Folk Festival three decades ago, and he's been hammering on ever since. He started off as a drummer playing rock, jazz, and blues, and then carried that musical experience and sense of rhythm over to the hammered dulcimer and folk music. Rounding out his musical expression, Cliff studies acoustic guitar, plays the blues harp, and enjoys singing.

Over the years, Cliff produced six recordings with his family folk group DayBreak, including Lost Cave, which was recorded live inside Lost River Caverns in Hellertown, PA and two recordings with his daughter, accomplished vocalist and poet, Emily Rose Cole.

Cliff's also plays in a musical duo, Tachyonmetry, where the interplay of the classical guitar and hammered dulcimer are breaking new ground. An EP called Sunset Waterfall has been released. <http://tachyonmetry.com>

Polyrhythms and Syncopation

Cliff Cole

Musical notation for the first system, measures 1-4. The top staff features eighth-note triplets in a 4/4 time signature. The bottom staff has a whole rest in measure 1, followed by quarter notes in measures 2 and 3, and eighth-note pairs in measure 4.

3:2 Polyrhythm

Musical notation for the second system, measures 5-7. The top staff features eighth-note triplets. The bottom staff features quarter notes, with a 3:2 polyrhythm in measure 6.

Basic Syncopation

Musical notation for the third system, measures 8-10. The top staff features quarter notes with a syncopated rhythm. The bottom staff features dotted quarter notes.

Musical notation for the fourth system, measures 11-13. The top staff features eighth-note triplets. The bottom staff features quarter notes with a syncopated rhythm.

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