

# Exploring Rhythms on the Hammered Dulcimer

## Introduction:

Since the hammered dulcimer is a percussion instrument, it makes a lot of sense to approach it as such. This workshop expands on some topics from earlier percussion workshops. We will discuss basic rudiments including the paradiddle. 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

- Alternate right and left hand
- Counting the beat
- Alternating Base
- Keeping things even
- Playing a basic roll
- Paradiddle
- A little about time signatures
- Approaching tunes using Rudiments

## Syncopation

- Missing beat syncopation
- Accenting a beat
- Applying this to your music
- Adding syncopation to a tune: “Off to California”

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

Syncopation example from Wikipedia

- Shifted by an [eighth note](#) (or quaver):



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syncopation>

## Conclusion

In this workshop we discussed some basic percussion concepts and how they apply to the hammered dulcimer.

## 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. Cliff has played in numerous rock, blues, jazz, zydeco and folk ensembles since the age of fifteen. Folk instruments are where the heart is...

Cliff plays the hammered dulcimer in the 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, "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 more recently a Christmas CD of a live Concert recorded in December of 2002

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

Cliff also plays gigs with his lovely seventeen old daughter, Emily Rose under the name of Glass Rose's. 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 features some of her original tunes.

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 hardware test engineer for the networking start-up SilverStorm Technologies, which is located in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

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### ***This document can be downloaded from:***

<http://www.daybreakfolk.com/CliffCole.htm>