

# **Elementary Marimba Method**

## **Selected Review Pages**

Preliminary comments by the author:

This book is designed to enable a student to competently and confidently play mallet-keyboard parts that are typically found in grade school and junior high school band music.

Concerning musicality, please note that while this an elementary-level book, the musical selections are, right from the beginning, above the nursery-school (Mary Had a Little Lamb) level. They are minimally at a level commonly found in junior high school band repertory. This even includes a few “bluesy” notes (see following page 19) and simple syncopation (see page 42).

When viewing the following select pages, you are also invited to listen concurrently with the play-along sound tracks. They are a free download. Please note that each duet is accompanied by three play-along tracks. The first track includes both marimba parts. The second track omits marimba 1, and the third track omits marimba 2. This gives the student a wide range of play-along choices during the process of learning each part.

# Contents

Music Notation	4
Marimba Fundamentals (grip, stroke action, etc.)	6
Reading Exercises	8
The Roll	11
Eighth Notes	12
Eighth Rests	15
Low Register	15
Key Signature, Key of F Major	16
2/4 Meter	17
Dotted Notes	18
Key of G Major	20
Dynamics	22
Sixteenth Notes	24
Arpeggios	28
Key of D Major	30
Accents	31
Larger Melodic Leaps	33
3/4 Meter	34
Key of B $\flat$ Major	36
6/8 Meter	38
Syncopation	42
Appendix	44
• Scales	
• Arpeggio Exercise	
• Facility Exercises	
• Roll Development Exercise	



## Dotted Notes

A dot in front of a note increases the value of that note by one half. Following are some examples.

1 2 3 4      1 2 3 4      1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +      1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

1

2

3

## Lotsa Dots

Tracks 12,13,14

1.      2.

## Accidental Colors

Four staves of musical notation in 2/4 time, featuring a key signature of one flat (Bb). The notation includes various accidentals (sharps and naturals) and phrasing slurs, illustrating the concept of 'Accidental Colors'.

## Some Blue Notes

Five staves of musical notation in 2/4 time, featuring a key signature of one flat (Bb). The notation includes various accidentals (sharps, flats, and naturals) and phrasing slurs, illustrating the concept of 'Some Blue Notes'.

## Musette

*Allegretto* is an Italian term indicating a moderately fast tempo.

J.S. Bach

## Allegretto

*f* *p*  
*mf* *p*  
*mf* *f* *p* *f*  
*p* *f*

## Bluegrass

Tracks 24,25,26

*mf*  
*mf* R L R L  
 1. 2.

## Accents

This icon ( > ) is an accent sign. When it appears over or under a note, it indicates to play that note a bit louder. In the following exercise, first play the rhythms on one bar until they are mastered. Take each repeat several times. Finally, play through the exercise taking no repeats.

### Accent Exercise

Three staves of musical notation for an accent exercise in 4/4 time, key of D major. The first staff contains four measures of eighth-note patterns with accents (>) over the first and third notes of each measure. The second staff contains four measures of eighth-note patterns with accents (>) over the first and third notes of each measure. The third staff contains four measures of eighth-note patterns with accents (>) over the first and third notes of each measure. The notes are: Staff 1: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5; Staff 2: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5; Staff 3: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5.

### Accentuate the Positive

Tracks 33,34,35

Two systems of musical notation for 'Accentuate the Positive' in 4/4 time, key of D major. The first system has two staves: the top staff is marked *mf* and the bottom staff is marked *mp*. Both staves contain four measures of eighth-note patterns with accents (>) over the first and third notes of each measure. The second system has two staves: the top staff contains two measures with first and second endings (1. and 2.) and two measures with accents (>) over the first and third notes of each measure; the bottom staff contains four measures of eighth-note patterns with accents (>) over the first and third notes of each measure. The notes are: System 1: Staff 1: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5; Staff 2: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5; System 2: Staff 1: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5; Staff 2: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5.

# Lazy Shuffle

Tracks 50,51,52

The musical score for "Lazy Shuffle" is written in 6/8 time and consists of four systems of two staves each. The first system includes dynamic markings *mf* and *mp*, and the word "LL" (likely for "Left Hand") is written above the notes in several measures. The second system continues the melodic and harmonic development. The third system features a prominent rhythmic pattern with accents (>) and includes the letter "R" below the notes, possibly indicating a right-hand part or a specific rhythmic instruction. The fourth system concludes with a first ending (marked "1.") and a second ending (marked "2."), both featuring repeated rhythmic figures with accents.

## Syncopation

Syncopation is the intentional upsetting of the natural pulse of the music by emphasizing (accenting) weak beats.

### Exercise

The exercise consists of four staves of music in 4/4 time, each starting with a *mf* dynamic. The first staff has four measures with accents on the second and fourth beats, with fingerings L, L, L, L. The second staff has four measures with accents on the second and fourth beats, with fingerings L, L, L, L. The third staff has four measures with accents on the second and fourth beats, with fingerings LR R LR, LR, and RR. The fourth staff has four measures with accents on the second and fourth beats, with fingerings RL LR R RL L RL.

### Accents Galore

Tracks 53,54,55

The exercise consists of two systems of music in 4/4 time. The first system has two staves: the top staff starts with *mf* and the bottom with *mp*. Both staves have four measures with accents on the second and fourth beats, with fingerings L, L, R, R. The second system has two staves: the top staff has four measures with accents on the second and fourth beats, with fingerings RL LL L, L, R, and R L. The bottom staff has four measures with accents on the second and fourth beats, with fingerings RL LL L, L, R, and R.