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Warm-ups

Extreme Interdependence

1. a.  b. c.

2. a.  b. c.

3. a.  b. c.

4. a. b. c.

5. a. b. c.

6. a. b. c.

7. a.  b. c.

Each exercise consists of three parts (a, b, c) on a single staff. The staff has a common time signature (indicated by a '4' in a box) and a repeat sign. The notes are quarter notes. In each part, there are specific patterns of 'x' marks above the notes, indicating where the performer should play. The patterns vary from exercise to exercise and between parts a, b, and c.

Patterns: Set 1

Patterns



1a.

1b.

2a.

2b.

3a.

3b.

4a.

4b.

5a.

5b.

6a.

6b.

The Melody Elements

Welcome to the other half of the equation! We are now ready to apply the melodies to the patterns. Once again, you will notice that some of the melodies appear in the extreme warm-up exercises. The only difference is that the figures are written as eighthths, triplets, sixteenths, and thirty-second notes.

The melody exercises are written between the same two notes on a single-line staff. One of the benefits of writing these figures in this way is that we can reassign other limbs to these exercises.

The snare and bass drum can be replaced with:

- a) Top note = right hand, bottom note = left hand, and vice versa.
- b) Top note = right foot, bottom note = left foot, and vice versa.
- c) Using one limb (e.g., right hand) top note = one sound source, bottom note = a different sound source (e.g., snare to floor tom).

After practicing these methods, you will notice an improvement in your improvisational skills because of the flexibility you'll obtain. Here is an example that demonstrates how to do it:

Go back to the Patterns section and decide which exercise you want to play. Let's pick Pattern 1a—a double-stroke between the bass drum and hi-hat (foot).



Now, flip to the Melody Elements section and pick another exercise. Let's pick Melody 1a.



As mentioned before, you now have a choice as to how you would like to interpret this melody. Since both feet are occupied, we will play the melody hand-to-hand as single strokes on the snare drum. Remember, top note = right hand, bottom note = left hand.

Now it is a simple matter of combining the two:

As you can see, the possibilities are enormous! You are limited only by your imagination, so experiment with your own combinations and have some fun!