

Percussive Arts Society
Keyboard Resource Document

Compiled by Robert Clayson

SECTION 1: TWO-MALLET CONCEPTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Grip:

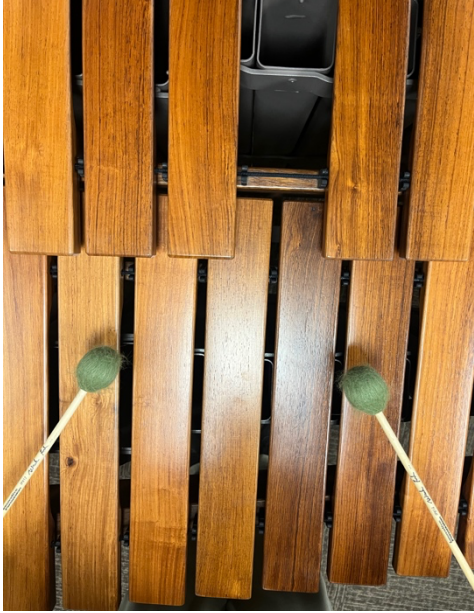
- Regardless of what mallet instrument you are playing, holding two mallets is almost the same as the matched grip that is taught for beginning snare drum. However, there are a few notable exceptions:
 - You do not have to be as strict with how much of the mallet is hanging behind your hand as you do with holding snare drum sticks.
 - There is no standard stick angle that should be pursued like with snare drum. you only need to worry about playing positions.

Playing Positions:

- Glockenspiel and vibraphone should be struck in the center of the bar. It is possible to strike these instrument at the extreme edge of the sharp keys, but care must be taken to ensure that a consistent sound with the center of the bar is always achieved.



- Marimba and xylophone generally have two main beating spots: one directly off center of the bar and one on the extreme edge of the flat/sharp keys closest to the player.



Striking the Bar:

- Striking the bar of a mallet instrument is more or less the same motion as striking the snare drum; the only big difference being that you will need to manually lift the mallet off the bar after striking.
- The dynamic you are trying to produce should dictate the amount of force and height used to strike the bar. However, each instrument will have a point in which the tone will start to become harsh. It is important to never reach that point to minimize the risk of damaging the bar.
- Helpful tip- for softer dynamic levels, you can choke up on the mallet to get less sound without having to change your base stroke too much.

MAJOR AND MINOR SCALE MASTERY WORKSHEETS

The following pages provide a step-by-step guide to learning each of the major scales as well as each of the natural and harmonic minor scales. Each scale is presented in the following order:

- One octave scale in quarter notes
- One octave scale in eighth notes
- One octave arpeggio in quarter notes
- One octave arpeggio in eighth notes
- Two octave scale in eighth notes
- Two octave arpeggio in quarter notes
- Two octave arpeggio in eighth notes
- Two octave scale and arpeggio in eighth notes

To help facilitate learning, each of these worksheets include accidentals for all of the altered notes instead of key signatures.

Scale Mastery- C Major

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets



Scale Mastery- A Natural Minor

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets

1
L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

7
L R L R L R L

10
L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

14
L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

20
L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R

23
L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

Scale Mastery- A Harmonic Minor

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets

7

10

14

20

23

Scale Mastery- F Major

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets

The musical score is written for mallets in 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music, each with a corresponding line of fingering instructions (L for left hand, R for right hand) written below the staff. The tempo is marked as Minimum ♩ = 80.

Staff 1: The first staff contains the first 6 measures of the scale. The fingering instructions are: L R L R L R L R L R L R L L R L R L R L R L.

Staff 2: The second staff contains measures 7 through 13. The fingering instructions are: L R L R L R L L R L R L R L R L.

Staff 3: The third staff contains measures 14 through 21. The fingering instructions are: L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L.

Staff 4: The fourth staff contains measures 22 through 29. The fingering instructions are: L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L.

Staff 5: The fifth staff contains measures 30 through 37. The fingering instructions are: L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L.

Staff 6: The sixth staff contains measures 38 through 45. The fingering instructions are: L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L.

Scale Mastery- D Natural Minor

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets



Scale Mastery- D Harmonic Minor

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets

Musical notation for the 'L' and 'R' sequence. The notation is on a single staff with a treble clef. It consists of two measures. The first measure contains four eighth notes: L, R, L, R. The second measure contains four eighth notes: L, R, L, R. The notes are labeled 'L' and 'R' below the staff.

10

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

14

L R L R L R L R L R L R L

L R L R L R L R L R L R L

20

Musical notation for the '20' exercise, showing a sequence of notes on a staff with fingerings L, R, L, R.

[illegible]

Scale Mastery- Bb Major

Robert Clayson

Minimum $\bullet = 80$

Mallets

[illegible]

7

10

[illegible]

1.

14

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R

2

2.

23

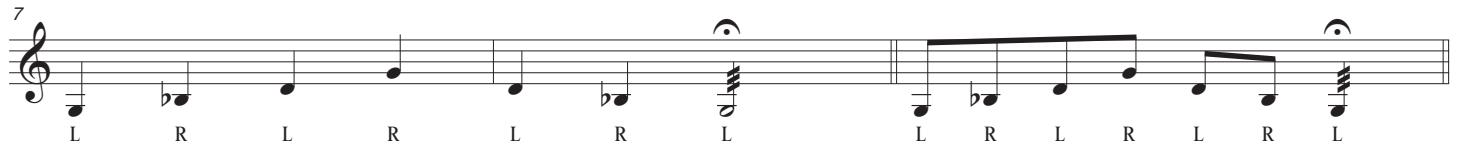
Musical notation for exercise 23, consisting of two staves. The first staff contains a sequence of eighth notes: L, R, L, R, followed by a half note L, then R, L, R, and finally a half note L. The second staff continues with eighth notes: L, R, L, R, followed by a half note L, then R, L, R, and finally a half note L. A double bar line follows the final half note.

Scale Mastery- G Natural Minor

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets



Scale Mastery- G Harmonic Minor

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets

The musical score is written for mallets in 4/4 time, featuring the G Harmonic Minor scale. The notation is presented in six systems, each with a treble clef staff and a sequence of notes with fingerings (L for left, R for right) indicated below. The key signature has one flat (Bb), and the scale is G-based. The notes are: G (L), A (R), Bb (L), C (R), D (L), Eb (R), F# (L), G (R). The score includes repeat signs and fermatas at the end of measures 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, and 23. Measure numbers 7, 10, 14, 20, and 23 are placed at the beginning of their respective systems.

Measures 1-6: G A Bb C D Eb F# G (L R L R L R L R L R L)

Measures 7-12: G A Bb C D Eb F# G (L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L)

Measures 13-19: G A Bb C D Eb F# G (L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L)

Measures 20-22: G A Bb C D Eb F# G (L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L)

Measure 23: G A Bb C D Eb F# G (L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L)

Scale Mastery- Eb Major

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets

The musical score is written for mallets in 4/4 time, featuring the Eb Major scale. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb). The tempo is marked as Minimum ♩ = 80. The score is divided into six staves, each with a measure number at the beginning and a sequence of 'L' and 'R' below the notes indicating the hand used for each note.

Staff 1 (Measures 1-6):
Measure 1: L R L R
Measure 2: L R L R
Measure 3: L R L R
Measure 4: L R L
Measure 5: L R L R L R L R
Measure 6: L R L R L R L

Staff 2 (Measures 7-12):
Measure 7: L R L R L R L
Measure 8: L R L R L R L
Measure 9: L R L R L R L
Measure 10: L R L R L R L
Measure 11: L R L R L R L
Measure 12: L R L R L R L

Staff 3 (Measures 13-18):
Measure 13: L R L R L R L R
Measure 14: L R L R L R L R
Measure 15: L R L R L R L R
Measure 16: L R L R L R L R
Measure 17: L R L R L R L R
Measure 18: L R L R L R L

Staff 4 (Measures 19-24):
Measure 19: L R L R L R L R
Measure 20: L R L R L R L R
Measure 21: L R L R L R L R
Measure 22: L R L R L R L R
Measure 23: L R L R L R L R
Measure 24: L R L R L R L

Staff 5 (Measures 25-30):
Measure 25: L R L R L R L R
Measure 26: L R L R L R L R
Measure 27: L R L R L R L R
Measure 28: L R L R L R L R
Measure 29: L R L R L R L R
Measure 30: L R L R L R L

Staff 6 (Measures 31-36):
Measure 31: L R L R L R L R
Measure 32: L R L R L R L R
Measure 33: L R L R L R L R
Measure 34: L R L R L R L R
Measure 35: L R L R L R L R
Measure 36: L R L R L R L

Scale Mastery- C Natural Minor

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets



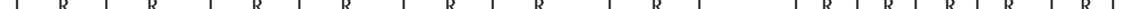
Scale Mastery- C Harmonic Minor

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets

allets



L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

7

Musical notation for the first exercise, showing a sequence of notes on a staff with fingerings L, R, L, R, L, R, L, R, L, R, L.

10

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

14

L R L R L R L R L R L R L

L R L R L R L R L R L R L

20

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R

23

Musical notation for exercise 23, consisting of two measures. The first measure contains eight notes: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, and G5. The second measure contains eight notes: G5, F#5, E5, D5, C5, Bb4, A4, and G4. Below each note is a letter indicating the foot used: L, R, L, R, L, R, L, R for the first measure, and L, R, L, R, L, R, L, R for the second measure.

Scale Mastery- Ab Major

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets

allets

allets

10

Exercise 10 continues with measures 10 through 13. The notation is on a single staff with a treble clef. It shows a sequence of eighth and sixteenth notes with fingerings indicated below. Measure 10: G4 (L), A4 (R), B4 (L), C5 (R), D5 (L), E5 (R), F5 (L), G5 (R). Measure 11: G5 (L), F5 (R), E5 (L), D5 (R), C5 (L), B4 (R), A4 (L), G4 (R). Measure 12: G4 (L), A4 (R), B4 (L), C5 (R), D5 (L), E5 (R), F5 (L), G5 (R). Measure 13: G5 (L), F5 (R), E5 (L), D5 (R), C5 (L), B4 (R), A4 (L), G4 (R). The exercise ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

14

Musical notation for Exercise 14, measures 1 through 8. The piece is in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. Measures 1-4 are in treble clef, and measures 5-8 are in bass clef. The melody consists of eighth notes and quarter notes, ending with a double bar line and repeat dots.

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R

20

Exercise 20, measures 1-4. The notation is on a single staff with a treble clef. It shows a sequence of eighth and sixteenth notes with fingerings indicated by 'L' and 'R' below the notes. A key signature change to one flat is indicated by a flat symbol on the first line of the third measure.

23

L R L R L R L R L R

Scale Mastery- F Natural Minor

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets

The musical score is written for mallets in 4/4 time, featuring the F Natural Minor scale. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The score is divided into six systems, each with a measure number at the beginning. The notes are as follows:

- System 1 (Measures 1-6): F4, G4, Ab4, Bb4, C5, Bb4. Fingering: L R L R L R L R L R L R L.
- System 2 (Measures 7-12): A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Fingering: L R L R L R L L R L R L.
- System 3 (Measures 13-18): Bb4, Ab4, G4, F4, E4, D4. Fingering: L R L R L R L L R L R L.
- System 4 (Measures 19-24): C5, Bb4, Ab4, G4, F4, E4. Fingering: L R L R L R L L R L R L.
- System 5 (Measures 25-30): D5, C5, Bb4, Ab4, G4, F4. Fingering: L R L R L R L L R L R L.
- System 6 (Measures 31-36): E5, D5, C5, Bb4, Ab4, G4. Fingering: L R L R L R L L R L R L.

The score includes repeat signs at the end of measures 6, 12, 18, 24, and 30. The final measure (36) ends with a double bar line.

Scale Mastery- F Harmonic Minor

Robert Clayson

Minimum $\text{♩} = 80$

Mallets

7

L R L R L R L L R L R L

10

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

14

L R L R L R L R L R L R L

20

Musical notation for the '20' exercise, showing a sequence of notes on a staff with fingerings L, R, L, R, L, R, L, R, L, R, L, R, L, R, L, R, L, R, L, R.

23

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

Scale Mastery- Db Major

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets

allets

L R L R L R L R L R L R L L R L R L R L R L R L

[illegible]

14

L R L R L R L R L R L R L

L R L R L R L R L R L R L

23

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

Scale Mastery- Bb Natural Minor

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets

[illegible]

10

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

[illegible]

20

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R

23

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R

Scale Mastery- Bb Harmonic Minor

Robert Clayson

Minimum $\bullet = 80$

Mallets

[illegible]

7

Musical notation for Exercise 7, showing a sequence of notes on a staff with fingerings L, R, L, R, L, R, L, R, L, R, L, R, L.

[illegible]

20

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R

23

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

Scale Mastery- Gb Major

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets

This musical score is for a mallet instrument, likely a xylophone or tubular bells, in 4/4 time. The key signature is G-flat major (two flats: B-flat and E-flat). The tempo is marked as a minimum of 80 beats per minute. The score is divided into six systems, each containing a staff of music with corresponding mallet patterns (L for left, R for right) written below the notes. The first system (measures 1-6) includes a repeat sign after measure 3. The second system (measures 7-12) also includes a repeat sign after measure 9. The third system (measures 13-18) includes a repeat sign after measure 15. The fourth system (measures 19-24) includes a repeat sign after measure 21. The fifth system (measures 25-30) includes a repeat sign after measure 27. The sixth system (measures 31-36) includes a repeat sign after measure 33. The score ends with a double bar line at measure 36.

Measures 1-6: L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

Measures 7-12: L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

Measures 13-18: L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

Measures 19-24: L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

Measures 25-30: L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

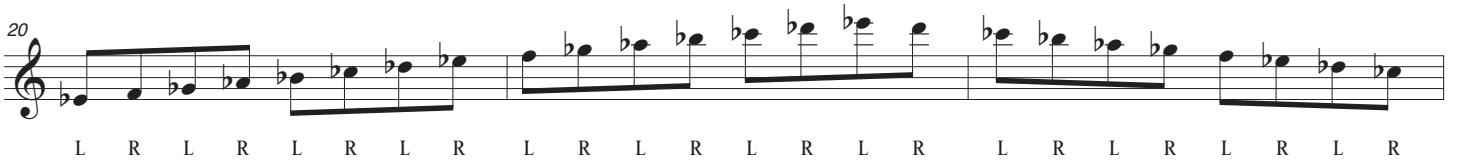
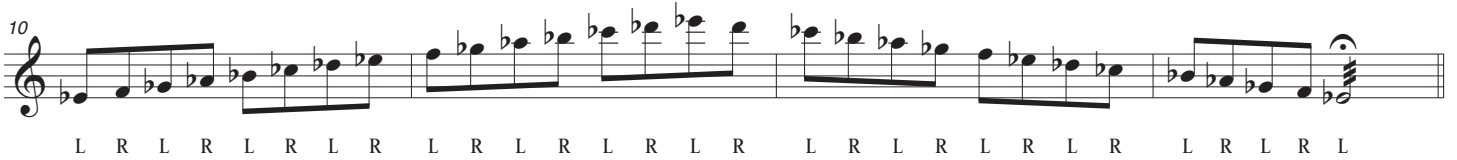
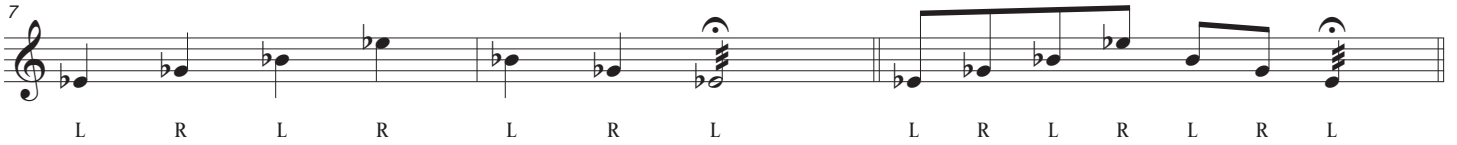
Measures 31-36: L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

Scale Mastery- Eb Natural Minor

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets



Scale Mastery- Eb Harmonic Minor

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets



L R L R L R L R L R L R L L R L R L R L R L



L R L R L R L L R L R L R L R L



L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L



L R L R L R L R L R L L R L R L R L R L



L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R



L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

Scale Mastery- G Major

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets

allets

L R L R L R L R L R L R L L L R R L L R L R L R L R L R L L

10

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

[illegible]

20

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R

23

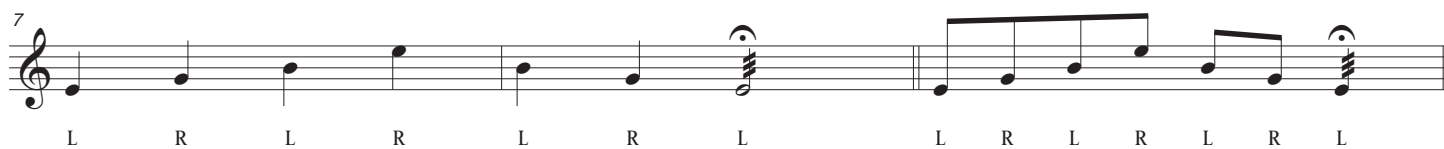
L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R

Scale Mastery- E Natural Minor

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets



Scale Mastery- E Harmonic Minor

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets

[illegible]

7

L R L R L R L L R L R L R L

10

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

14

L R L R L R L R L R L

23

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

Scale Mastery- D Major

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets



7



10



14



20



23



Scale Mastery- B Natural Minor

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets

The musical score is written for mallets in 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music, each with a corresponding line of left (L) and right (R) hand fingering. The scale is B natural minor, with notes B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B. The score is divided into measures by bar lines, and some measures contain repeat signs. The fingering is as follows:

Staff 1: L R L R L R L R L R L L L R L R L R L R L R L

Staff 2: L R L R L R L L L R L R L R L R L

Staff 3: L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

Staff 4: L R L R L R L R L R L R L L L R L R L

Staff 5: L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R

Staff 6: L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

Scale Mastery- A Major

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets

The musical score is written for mallets in 4/4 time, featuring the A major scale (A, B, C#, D, E, F#, G, A) and its descending form. The score is divided into six systems, each containing a staff of music with corresponding left (L) and right (R) mallet fingering indicated below the notes. The first system (measures 1-6) includes a repeat sign after measure 4. The second system (measures 7-8) also includes a repeat sign after measure 7. The third system (measures 9-13) includes a repeat sign after measure 11. The fourth system (measures 14-16) includes a repeat sign after measure 15. The fifth system (measures 17-22) includes a repeat sign after measure 19. The sixth system (measures 23-24) includes a repeat sign after measure 23. The score concludes with a final double bar line at the end of measure 24.

Measures 1-6: A B C# D E F# G A (L R L R L R L R L R L) | A G F# E D C# B A (L R L R L R L R L R L)

Measures 7-8: A B C# D E F# G A (L R L R L R L) | A G F# E D C# B A (L R L R L R L)

Measures 9-13: A B C# D E F# G A (L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L) | A G F# E D C# B A (L R L R L R L R L R L)

Measures 14-16: A B C# D E F# G A (L R L R L R L R L R L) | A G F# E D C# B A (L R L R L R L R L R L)

Measures 17-22: A B C# D E F# G A (L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L) | A G F# E D C# B A (L R L R L R L R L R L)

Measures 23-24: A B C# D E F# G A (L R L R L R L R L R L) | A G F# E D C# B A (L R L R L R L R L R L)

Scale Mastery- F# Natural Minor

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets



Scale Mastery- F# Harmonic Minor

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets

L R L R L R L R L R L L R L R L R L

7

L R L R L R L

10

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

23

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

Scale Mastery- E Major

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets



Scale Mastery- C# Natural Minor

Robert Clayson

Minimum $\text{♩} = 80$

Mallets

allets



L R L R L R L R L R L R L L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

7

L R L R L R L L R L R L

10

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

[illegible]

20

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R

23

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R

L

Scale Mastery- C# Harmonic Minor

Robert Clayson

Minimum $\text{♩} = 80$

Mallets

allets

L R L R L R L R L R L R L L R L R L R L R L

7

7

L R L R L R L R L R L R L

10

10

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

14

[illegible]

20

20

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R

23

23

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

Scale Mastery- B Major

Robert Clayson

Minimum $\text{♩} = 80$

Mallets

7

7

L R L R L R L L R L R L

10

10

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

14

14

L R L R L R L R L R L R L

L R L R L R L R L R L R L

20

20

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R

23

23

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

Scale Mastery- G# Natural Minor

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets

The musical score is written for mallets in 4/4 time, featuring the G# Natural Minor scale. The notation is presented in six systems, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The scale is played in both ascending and descending directions, with specific fingering indicated by 'L' (left) and 'R' (right) below the notes. Measures 1 and 23 conclude with a final G# chord, marked with a fermata. Measure numbers 7, 10, 14, 20, and 23 are placed at the beginning of their respective systems.

Measures 1-6: Ascending scale (G#4 to G#5) and descending scale (G#5 to G#4).
Measures 7-9: Ascending scale (G#4 to G#5).
Measures 10-13: Descending scale (G#5 to G#4).
Measures 14-16: Ascending scale (G#4 to G#5).
Measures 17-19: Descending scale (G#5 to G#4).
Measures 20-22: Ascending scale (G#4 to G#5).
Measure 23: Descending scale (G#5 to G#4) with a final G# chord.

Scale Mastery- G# Harmonic Minor

Robert Clayson

Minimum ♩ = 80

Mallets

The musical score is written for mallets in 4/4 time, featuring the G# Harmonic Minor scale. The notation includes treble clefs, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The score is divided into six systems, each containing two staves. The first staff of each system is the main melodic line, and the second staff is a lower octave accompaniment. The scale is played in both ascending and descending directions. The notes are: G# (F#), A, B, C, D, E, F# (G#), and G# (F#). The rhythm is a steady eighth-note pattern. The score includes measure numbers 1, 7, 10, 14, 20, and 23. The final measure (23) ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Measures 1-6: Ascending scale, eighth notes, with rests in the lower staff.

Measures 7-9: Descending scale, eighth notes, with rests in the lower staff.

Measures 10-13: Ascending scale, eighth notes, with rests in the lower staff.

Measures 14-17: Descending scale, eighth notes, with rests in the lower staff.

Measures 18-21: Ascending scale, eighth notes, with rests in the lower staff.

Measures 22-23: Descending scale, eighth notes, with rests in the lower staff.

Mallet Sight Reading Workbook

How to use this material:

This workbook is divided into 8 different sections with rhythms ranging from only half notes to sixteenth-note triplets. Each section increases in difficulty by adding things such as larger leaps between notes and double stops of increasing intervals. The purpose of this workbook is to have the performer sight-read the selected section in any tempo, key, or clef desired. These exercises are written with no central pitch in mind, so they will not sound particularly good (that is not the point). It is encouraged to start reading things as slowly as possible with a metronome. When the performer has confidently read each of the sections in every major and minor key, turn the music upside down and start again. This creates an almost limitless amount of material in which to hone one's sight-reading skills.

Other challenges you can do:

- Instead of reading straight through from beginning to end, skip every other measure, and then every two measures. Once comfortable with this, perform each four measure chunk with the pattern 1, 3, 2, 4.
- Incorporate dynamic shifts, either via a pattern or by writing them in the exercise itself.
- Incorporate accents and rolls, either via a pattern or by writing them in the exercise itself.
- Incorporate clef changes, either via a pattern or by writing them in the exercise itself.
- Incorporate key changes, either via a pattern or by writing them in the exercise itself.
- This workbook only includes time signatures of 4/4 or 8/4. Try coming up with your own workbook that uses other time signatures such as 3/4 or 12/8.
- Pick a key for any particular section and transpose that section up or down a predetermined interval. This challenge is recommended only for the first couple of sections.

Mallet Sight Reading Workbook

Robert Clayson

Section 1: Half notes and quarter notes, stepwise motion and leaps of 3rds and 4ths

Section 1 consists of 12 measures of music. The first measure is in 8/4 time. The subsequent measures are in 4/4 time. The notation includes half notes and quarter notes, with stepwise motion and leaps of 3rds and 4ths.

Section 2: Quarter notes only, stepwise motion and leaps of 3rds and 4ths

Section 2 consists of 12 measures of music. The first measure is in 4/4 time. The subsequent measures are in 4/4 time. The notation includes quarter notes only, with stepwise motion and leaps of 3rds and 4ths.

Section 3: Add eighth notes (and rests)

Section 3 consists of 12 measures of music. The first measure is in 4/4 time. The subsequent measures are in 4/4 time. The notation includes eighth notes and rests, with stepwise motion and leaps of 3rds and 4ths.

Section 3: Add double stops with intervals ranging from 2-5

Section 3: Add double stops with intervals ranging from 2-5. The notation shows five staves of music, each containing four measures. The music features eighth and quarter notes, often with double stops (chords) indicated by vertical lines connecting the notes. The intervals between the notes in the double stops range from 2 to 5.

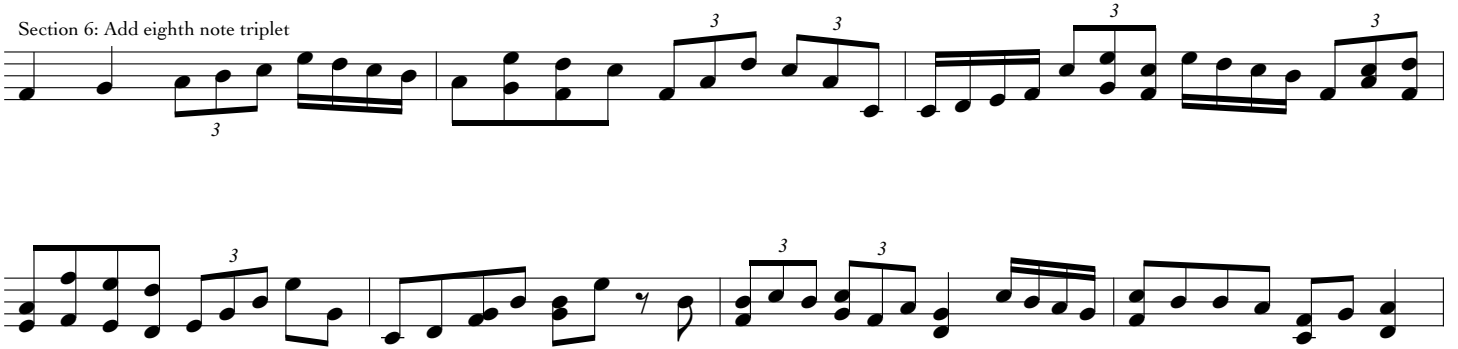
Section 4: Add leaps and double stops up to an octave (emphasis on 6's and 7ths)

Section 4: Add leaps and double stops up to an octave (emphasis on 6's and 7ths). The notation shows four staves of music, each containing four measures. The music features eighth and quarter notes, often with double stops (chords) indicated by vertical lines connecting the notes. The intervals between the notes in the double stops range from 2 to 5, with an emphasis on 6's and 7ths.

Section 5: Add sixteenth notes (and rests)



Section 6: Add eighth note triplet



Section 8: Add sixteenth note triplet



SECTION 2:

FOUR-MALLET

CONCEPTS

GENERAL INFORMATION



Learning Steven's Grip and the Eight Basic Stroke Types by Robert Clayson



Four-Mallet Marimba Technique Exercises Demonstration by Robert Clayson



Mallet FUNDamentals by Emma Kieselhorst

Sample Marimba Technique Exercise Packet

Standard Double Verticals

Repeat this pattern for all major and minor intervals as desired

Note- if playing on an instrument that does not have a five octave range, start this exercise an octave above your instrument's lowest note.

Marimba

Handwritten musical notation for measures 1-3 of the 'Standard Double Verticals' exercise. The notation is for a Marimba, with a treble clef (RH) and a bass clef (LH). The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. The exercise consists of vertical double notes (dyads) in both hands, moving in parallel motion. Measure 1: RH (C4, E4), LH (C3, E3). Measure 2: RH (D4, F#4), LH (D3, F#3). Measure 3: RH (E4, G4), LH (E3, G3).

4

Handwritten musical notation for measures 4-6 of the 'Standard Double Verticals' exercise. Measure 4: RH (F#4, A4), LH (F#3, A3). Measure 5: RH (G4, B4), LH (G3, B3). Measure 6: RH (A4, C5), LH (A3, C4). The exercise concludes with a double bar line.

Double Vertical Interval Changes #1 (Extreme Changes)

Note: if playing on an instrument that does not have a five octave range, the octave interval in your left hand should be your instrument's lowest note.

8

Handwritten musical notation for measures 8-11 of 'Double Vertical Interval Changes #1 (Extreme Changes)'. The notation is for a Marimba (M), with a treble clef (RH) and a bass clef (LH). The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. Measures 8-10: The RH plays a sequence of vertical double notes (dyads) moving upwards: (C4, E4), (D4, F#4), (E4, G4), (F#4, A4), (G4, B4), (A4, C5). The LH is silent. Measure 11: The LH plays a sequence of vertical double notes moving upwards: (C3, E3), (D3, F#3), (E3, G3), (F#3, A3), (G3, B3), (A3, C4). The RH is silent.

Double Vertical Interval Changes #2 (Gradual Changes)

Note: if playing on an instrument that does not have a five octave range, your left hand should start on your instrument's lowest note and your right hand should start an octave above that.

12

Handwritten musical notation for measures 12-14 of 'Double Vertical Interval Changes #2 (Gradual Changes)'. The notation is for a Marimba (M), with a treble clef (RH) and a bass clef (LH). The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. Measures 12-14: Both hands play a sequence of vertical double notes moving upwards in half-note intervals. Measure 12: RH (C4, E4), LH (C3, E3). Measure 13: RH (D4, F#4), LH (D3, F#3). Measure 14: RH (E4, G4), LH (E3, G3).

15

Handwritten musical notation for measures 15-18 of 'Double Vertical Interval Changes #2 (Gradual Changes)'. Measures 15-18: Both hands continue the sequence of vertical double notes moving upwards in half-note intervals. Measure 15: RH (F#4, A4), LH (F#3, A3). Measure 16: RH (G4, B4), LH (G3, B3). Measure 17: RH (A4, C5), LH (A3, C4). Measure 18: RH (B4, D5), LH (B3, D4). The exercise concludes with a double bar line.

19

Handwritten musical notation for measures 19-20 of 'Double Vertical Interval Changes #2 (Gradual Changes)'. Measure 19: Both hands continue the sequence of vertical double notes moving upwards in half-note intervals. Measure 20: RH (C5, E5), LH (C4, E4). The exercise concludes with a double bar line.

22

Handwritten musical notation for measures 21-22 of 'Double Vertical Interval Changes #2 (Gradual Changes)'. Measure 21: Both hands continue the sequence of vertical double notes moving upwards in half-note intervals. Measure 22: RH (D5, F#5), LH (D4, F#4). The exercise concludes with a double bar line.

2
26

Single Independents with Interval Changes

Note: if playing on an instrument that does not have a five octave range,
your left hand should start on your instrument's lowest note and your right hand should start an octave above that.

M

4 3 4 3

1 2 1 2

M

M

M

M

M

Outside Double Lateral Strokes

Note- if playing on an instrument that does not have a five octave range, your left hand should start an octave above your instrument's lowest note.

Note- repeat this exercise with the permutation 2-1-3-4 for inside double laterals.

50

M

1 2 4 3

Variation #1: usedifferent intervals (such as M3 or P8)

Variation #2: play this exercise with each type of seventh chord (bass mallet is the root of the chord)

53

M

56

M

59

M

4
64

M

Variation #1: use different intervals (such as M3 or P8)

Variation #2: play this exercise with each type of seventh chord (bass mallet is the root of the chord)

66

M

68

M

71

Independent Roll RH

M

75

Independent Roll LH

M

Four Mallet Marimba

First Pieces - Medium Difficulty

Sample Repertoire List

Often, many people stunt their technical and musical development by attempting to play pieces too early. This can cause undue frustration and can lead to burnout. The following list contains suggestions for players just learning how to hold the mallets as well as some more aggressive literature choices for first year players. All of the pieces on this list can be purchased from most major percussion music stores. While this list is certainly not exhaustive, the hope is that it will give younger players options they have not thought about.

First Pieces:

- First Steps for Solo Marimba, by Robert Clayson (collection)
- Five Miniatures for Solo Marimba, by Kyle Peters (collection)
- Image, by Bart Quartier (collection)
- June Bug, by Andrew Smit
- Marimba Miniatures, by Robert Clayson (collection)
- Marimba: Technique Through Music, by Mark Ford (collection)
- The Offering, by Michael Burritt
- Sequential Studies books 1 and 2 by Julia Gaines (collection)
- Simple Song, by Robert Clayson
- Spinning Yarns, by Matthew Weyer (collection)

Easy:

- Dream Sequence 1-3 by Tracy Thomas (individual stand-alone pieces)
- Echoes, by Kevin Bobo
- First Impressions, by Andrew Patzig
- Marshmellow, by David Friedman
- To Reflect is to Learn, by Kit Mills
- Pixel Pop!, by Matt Moore

Medium:

- A Cricket Sang and Set the Sun, by Blake Tyson
- A Pleasing Trip, by Koen Wilmaers
- Four Rotations for Marimba, by Eric Sammut
- Ghost Garden, by Adam Hopper
- Like a Burden too Heavy, by Brian Blume
- Madison's Unicorn, by Brett Dietz

- Monograph IV, by Richard Gipson
- Nine Miniatures and a Fantasy, by Brett Dietz (collection)
- Nocturnal Dance, by Jesse Monkman
- Not Far from Here, by Blake Tyson
- Peach Dance, by Gordon Stout
- Preludes 1-5, by Michael Burritt (collection)
- Restless, by Rich O'mera
- Strive to be Happy, by Ivan Trevino
- Three Preludes, by Ney Rosauero
- Virginia Tate, by Paul Smadbeck

Simple Song

For Solo Marimba

By Robert Clayson

“Simple Song” was written in 2024 as an offering for the Percussive Arts Society’s Keyboard Resource Document. The piece uses mainly single independent and double lateral strokes and is a perfect way to beginner players to start working on music after learning how to hold the mallets and the more basic stroke types. The performer is encouraged to use a medium soft mallet and to use the written stickings as mere suggestions.

To watch a video recording of this piece, please scan the QR code below.



Simple Song

Robert Clayson

Resonantly with Rubato ♩ = 90

Marimba

Marimba

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

mp

9 10 11 12

mf

13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20

f

21 22 23 24

rit.

p

25 26 27

a tempo

rit.