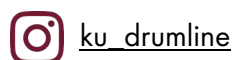




Front Ensemble Technique & Warm-Up Packet
2025

Celebrating 90 Years of KU Marching



WELCOME TO KUMU PERCUSSION!

You will find that music is one of the most demanding and rewarding of the arts. The amount of work and sacrifice that you are willing to commit directly reflects the outcome of the season.

This packet is your marching percussion guide that will assist you along your musical journey.



Please take some time to develop a solid understanding of the basics in this packet in order to graduate to a higher level of playing. Spend a generous amount of time studying these concepts and exercises with a metronome at slow tempos. Patient practice of these techniques will tremendously assist you in establishing a firm foundation on which to build.

The greatest single factor that will determine the success of any individual or organization is attitude. Let's have a positive attitude and work towards a common goal of excellence.

Danny Mark
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"The only person you are destined to become, is the person you decide to be"

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

INTRODUCTION

This warm-up packet contains fundamental exercises for the front ensemble. The information provided will help build a strong foundation for a successful season. There are many different approaches and techniques that are used to teach front ensembles. We will be using the following terminology and approach in KUMU front ensemble this season. Please familiarize yourself with this information.

Your mental commitment to excel will determine how fast and how far you will progress. This commitment is your ability to focus on specific guidelines, evaluate your level of achievement, and make adjustments when necessary. Be willing, be patient, and trust the experience of your instructors.

COMMITMENT

"Desire is the key to motivation, but it's determination and commitment to an unrelenting pursuit of your goal - a commitment to excellence - that will enable you to attain the success you seek."

-Mario Andretti

POSTURE

Maintaining a good posture while rehearsing and performing is very important. It brings uniformity to how the ensemble looks visually and allows us to bring a good musical approach to the instrument.

The beginning posture:

- Begin with feet about shoulder-width apart
- Your legs should be relaxed with your knees slightly flexed (not locked)
- Relax your arms at your side
- Your neck and shoulders should remain relaxed with no tension
- holding your head up with both eyes focused straight ahead at all times
- projecting a facial expression of confidence
- remaining still while standing at attention
- Avoid crossing your feet while playing and never stand with your feet crossed. This will inhibit your range of motion and movement behind the instrument.

Two-Mallet Technique

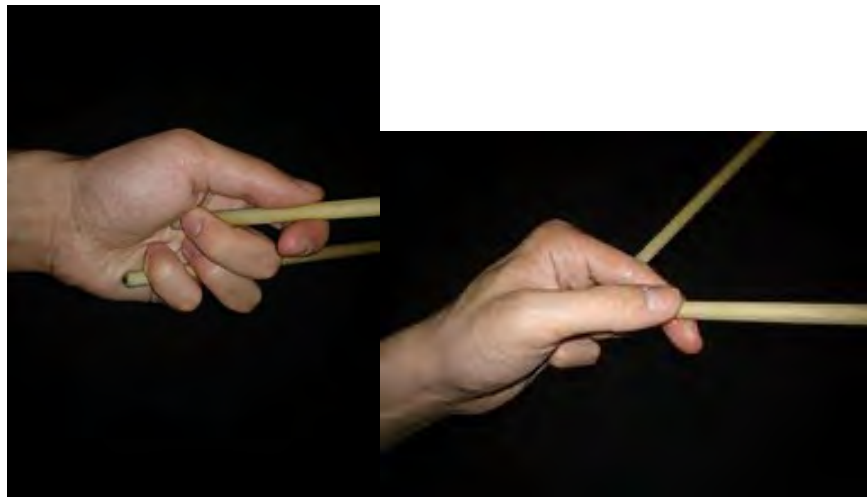
Without the proper grip, achieving a high-performance level with good sound quality is impossible. Take the time to understand the checkpoints for a proper grip and how to produce a fluid, relaxed stroke at all heights.

To achieve a proper grip, start with your hands open and relaxed at your sides. Slide a mallet through the opening between your thumb and for finger (this is your fulcrum) in your right hand and let your fingers close gently around the mallet. Do not clamp your fingers down on the mallet as this will create unwanted tension.

Four-Mallet Technique

We will use the “Stevens” grip when playing with 4 mallets.

To start, place one mallet between the middle and ring fingers on your right hand. Close your ring finger and pinky finger around the end of the mallet. Let the shaft of the mallet rest on your knuckle of your middle finger. When it's position correctly, you should see about a half inch of the mallet sticking out from the side of your hand. Place the butt of the second mallet directly in the center of your palm and then pick it up with your thumb and forefinger. Some minor adjustments may be necessary, but this is the basic way to achieving the Steven’s grip.



STROKE

We will use a few different stroke types and articulations. These are the most used strokes.

Full Legato Stroke

- remain relaxed
- start in the “up” position
- the mallet will come straight down, attack the bar, and return the height it started at
- this should be a fluid motion
- imagine that you are pulling the sound out of the bar

Down Stroke

- a strong, aggressive stroke
- the mallet head will be stopped down at the bar
- engage the fingers to trap the mallet

QUALITY OF SOUND

All of the concepts will come together to create “quality of sound” - presenting musical thoughts with a mature, rich, full sound through every rhythm, dynamic, and tempo. **Sound quality is when the mallet and bar resonate to its maximum potential.** This can be achieved by approaching every stroke with maximum relaxed velocity at every height without adding pressure.

FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS BEHIND EFFECTIVE DRUMLINE REHEARSALS

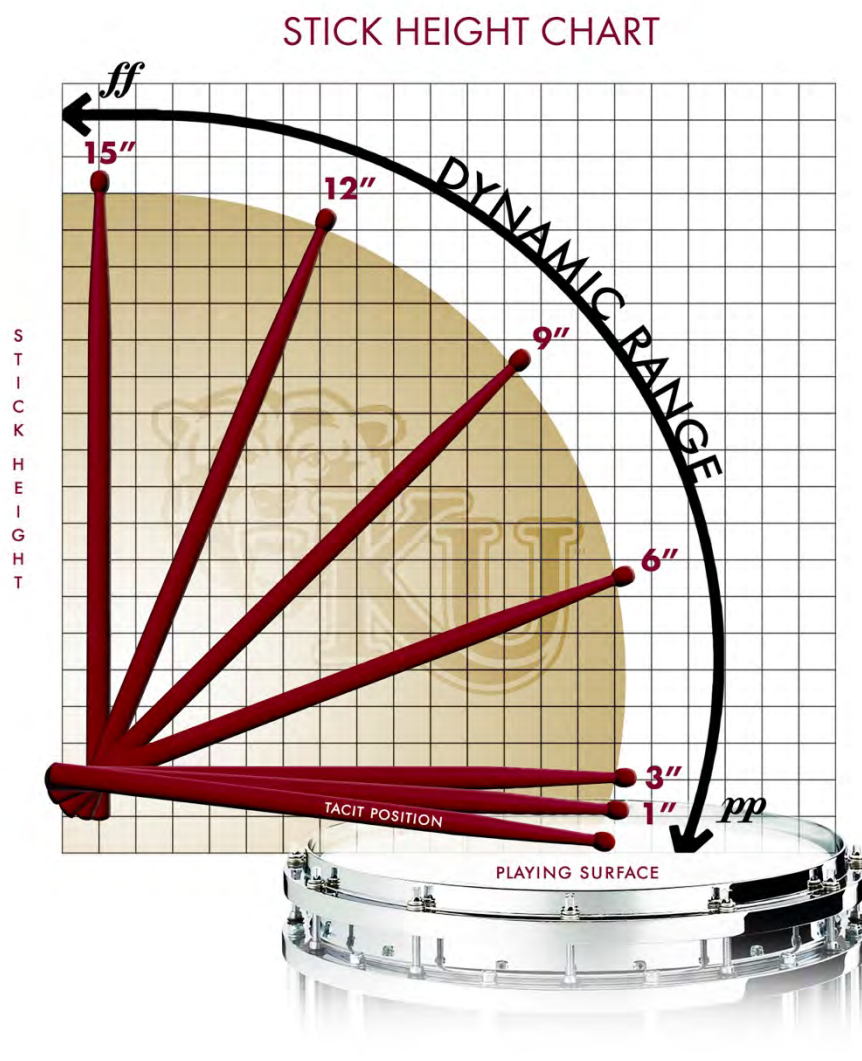
1. **Always work with a metronome.** Much of percussion performance is related to muscle memory. Working with a metronome will develop consistency for each technique covered in these exercises. Always mark time when appropriate.
2. **Always start slowly** and strive for consistent mallet heights, tempo control, rhythmic accuracy, and quality of sound. When you feel comfortable, gradually begin to increase tempo. As the tempo increases, be sure to remain relaxed.
3. **Memorization is key.** The sooner you can get your head out of the music, the sooner you can direct your focus to playing with the ensemble. Anything needed to perform the show and technique program is required memorization material. This includes anything from rhythms, stickings, and stick heights to rehearsal markings, visuals/vocals, and drill information.
4. **Repetition is necessary.** In order to develop the proper muscle memory necessary for a high-performance level, each exercise should be practiced (correctly) a minimum of a dozen times at a given tempo.
5. It is helpful to rehearse the technique program at a variety of tempi and dynamic levels. Each variable affects how the muscles respond, and therefore must be a part of the regular rehearsal routine.

Practice the way you perform. You may be tempted to practice with poor posture, approach, and/or technique. This can often do more harm than good as it may train the wrong muscles thus leading to poor tempo/rhythm control and quality of sound.

USING THE HEIGHT SYSTEM FOR DYNAMICS

Because the visual consistency from player to player is a vital part of the marching activity, it is essential to define a system of heights when applying dynamics to exercises or show music. This allows each player to match volume and mallet heights on any given musical passage. The graph below shows a visual representation of the stick height system the battery uses. The Front Ensemble will utilize the same dynamic approach. (**In the picture - the drumhead acts as the marimba bar.)

pp - 1" **p** - 3" **P** - 6" **F** - 9" **f** - 12" **ff** - 15"



Pulse Percussion 2019 Auditions

♩=110-160 2-mallet range

♩=90-130 4-mallet range

All 12 major keys

Jetson Scales

IAN GROM

Marimba

mp *f*

staccato indicates pedal up, phrase markings indicate pedaling

Vibraphone

mp *f*

Mar.

4

mf *mp*

Vib.

mf *mp*

Mar.

7

f *mp*

Vib.

f *mp*

C-Eb: Play all up at forte
E-G: Play written dynamics
Ab-B: Play opposite dynamics (mp is now f, etc)
Final C scale: All up

We will also use this scales exercise as the basis for learning all modes and minor scales, you MAY want to look into that on your own :)

2 Lateral Octaves

IAN GROM

$\text{♩} = 68$

12

Mar. *f*

Vib. *f*

2 3 4 2 3 4 2 3 4 2 3 4

1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3

mp

1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3

6 6

2 3 4 2 3 4 2 3 4 2 3 4

6 6

2 3 4 2 3 4 2 3 4 2 3 4

6 6

15

Mar. *f*

Vib. *f*

mp

6 6

6 6

6 6

6 6

accel.

18

Mar. *f*

Vib. *f*

mp

6 6

6 6

9

3

f

f

f

f

♩=88

21 *E♭maj* 6 *E♭min* 6

Mar. *ff*

Vib. *ff* 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

Ped.

23 *Cø7/E♭* 6 *Fmin7/E♭* 6

Mar.

Vib. 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

Ped.

25 *E♭maj7/D♯* 6 6 6 6 6 6 3 3

Mar. *p*

Vib. 6 6 6 6 6 6 3 3

Ped. *p*

rit.

♩=50

27

Mar.

Vib.

p 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 *mf* 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

mp *mf*

Ped. Ped. Ped.

29

Mar. 1-2

Mar. 3-5

Vib.

pp *p*

p split 1 split 1 split 2 split 2

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

PULSE 2019 Audition Exercises

Jetson Scales

Ian Grom

All 12 major keys

♩=90-160 bpm

2

3

4

5

Marimba

Piano in all 12 keys

Synth 1

Chord progression symbols provided for reference: C, F#sus2/C, G/C, Bdim7, Amin7, G/B, F#sus2, Amin7, G7b9, E7/G.

Strings in all 12 keys

Synth 2

Chord progression symbols provided for reference: C, F#sus2/C, G/C, Bdim7, Amin7, G/B, F#sus2, Amin7, G7b9, E7/G.

Timpani

chord progression symbols provided for reference

displace octaves as needed for each key

Drum Set

this is a base pattern to start with, add variations where APPROPRIATE :)

Aux 1

Shaker

Mounted Tambourine

Tom

6 7 8 9 10 11

Mar

Synth. 1

Synth. 2

Timp.

Dr.

Aux 1

mp *f* *mp* etc, etc

C Bb/C Emin/C F/C G C Ebmin7Ab9 Db Gbsus2/Db

mp *f* *mp* etc, etc

ii V standard ii-V-1 turnaround to get into the next key

Strings

Bass

ii V I standard ii-V-1 turnaround to get into the next key

R | l r R etc, etc

mp *f* *mp* etc, etc

Lateral Octaves

IAN GROM

12 $\text{♩} = 68$ 13 14 15 16

Mar

f *mp* *f*

Piano

f *mp* *f*

Strings

f

Timp.

f *mf* *mp* *f* *mf*

Dr.

f *p* *f*

Aux 1

RH - Mounted Triangle *mf*

LH - stick Sm Cym Stack Toms LH - stick *p*

LH - stick Sm Cym Stack Toms LH - stick *mf*

Crash Ride Crash Ride

f *mf*

4

5

24 *Fmin7/Eb* 6 6 6 6 25 *Emaj7/D#* 6 6 6 6 26 6 6 3 3 *p*

Mar

Fmin7/Eb 3 3 *Emaj7/D#* 3 3 3 3 *p*

Synth. 1

Fmin7/Eb *Emaj7/D#*

Synth. 2

Fmin7/Eb *Emaj7/D#* *p*

Timp.

6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 *p*

Dr.

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 *p*

Aux 1

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 *p*

27 *rit.* 28 29 30 31

Mar 1-2

Synth. 1

Synth. 2

Timp.

Dr.

Aux 1

Triangle

SD

p *mf* *p* *pp* *mp* *ppp*

Calypso Remix

Danny Mark

A ♩ = 128 VERSION 1 - 2 Mallets

Marimba

B L R B L R B ETC.

Synth Pad

Mrb.

Pad

12

12

©2017

B

VERSION 2 - 4 MALLETS

Calypso Remix

Mrb.

4
3

18

2
1

Pad

This system contains measures 1 through 17. The Mrb. part has a consistent rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The Pad part features sustained chords in the right hand and a bass line with long notes and ties, creating a steady accompaniment.

Mrb.

24

24

Pad

This system contains measures 18 through 23. The Mrb. part continues the rhythmic melody. The Pad part continues the harmonic accompaniment with sustained chords and a bass line.

Mrb.

30

3 2 3 3 3/4

30

Pad

This system contains measures 24 through 29. The Mrb. part concludes with a final measure containing a triplet and a 3/4 note. The Pad part concludes with a final measure containing a triplet and a 3/4 note.

VERSION 3 - 4 Mallet Permutations

Mrb.

35

Pad

3 4 3 3 3 4 3 3 4 3 4 3 3 4 3 4

1 2 3 2 3 2 3 1 2 3 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2

Mrb.

42

Pad

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

1 2 2 1

Mrb.

47

Pad

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

1 2 1 2 1

Pizza

$\text{♩} = 90-120$

M 

M 

M 

M 

M 

M 

M 

M 

Pizza - Variations

Reverse sticking (descending pattern - L 3 4)

M 

Sextuplets

M 

Timing

♩=90-150

M

M

M

Timing

left hand on downbeats

♩=90-150

M

M

M

Steady, Don't Trip and Fall!

Score

(Or get STUCK...Ha...ha...ha)

Arr. Danny Mark

Marimba

Synth Pad

This system contains the first three measures of the score. The Marimba part is in 4/4 time, starting with a series of eighth-note triplets (beamed eighth notes with a '3' above them) in the right hand, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note bass line. The Synth Pad part consists of a grand staff (treble and bass clef). The right hand plays sustained triads, and the left hand plays a steady eighth-note bass line. The key signature has one flat (Bb).

Pad

This system contains measures 4 through 6. The Pad part continues with the same instrumental textures. The Marimba part maintains its triplet pattern. The Synth Pad part continues with sustained triads in the right hand and a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand. The key signature has one flat (Bb).

Pad

This system contains measures 7 through 9. The Pad part continues with the same instrumental textures. The Marimba part maintains its triplet pattern. The Synth Pad part continues with sustained triads in the right hand and a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand. The key signature has one flat (Bb).

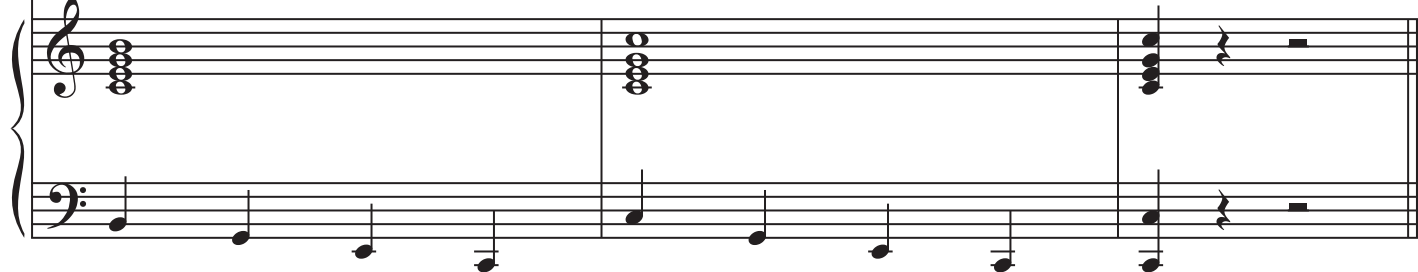
2
10

Steady, Don't Trip and Fall!



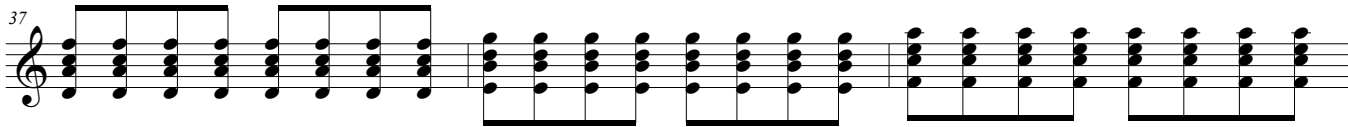
10

Pad



A minor 7 Chords

Mal. 

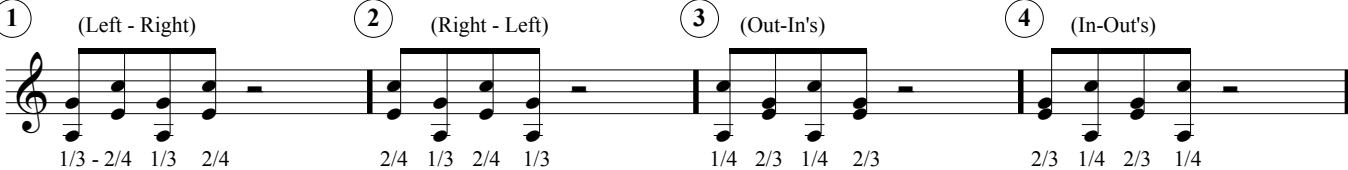
Mal. 

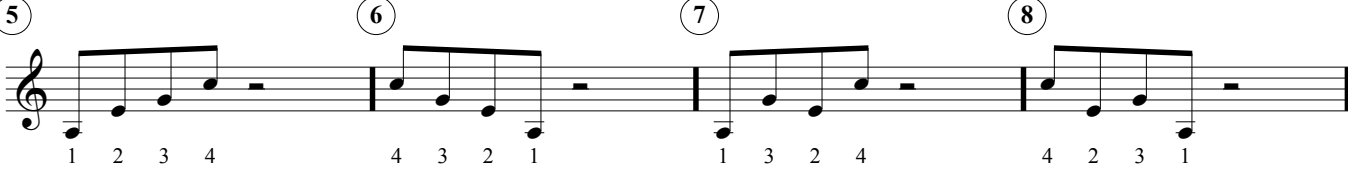
Mal. 

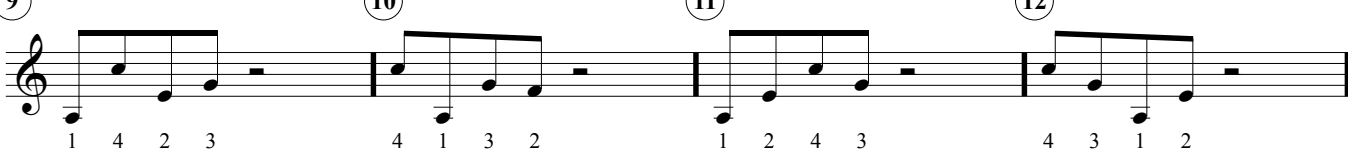
Mal. 

Mal. 

4-Mallet Permutations (Substitute for Block Chords)

Mal. 

Mal. 

Mal. 

Broccoli

Fours

This system of music is for the first measure of the piece, marked 'Fours'. It features five staves: Keyboard (Kbd.), Synthesizer (Syn.), Bass, and Percussion (Perc.). The Kbd. and Syn. parts play a continuous eighth-note melody in the right hand. The Syn. part also has a bass line in the left hand. The Bass and Perc. parts provide a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

Twos

This system of music is for the second measure, marked 'Twos'. The Kbd. and Syn. parts continue their eighth-note melody. The Syn. part's bass line becomes more active, featuring eighth-note patterns. The Bass and Perc. parts maintain their accompaniment, with the Perc. part adding some syncopation.

Fours

This system of music is for the third measure, marked 'Fours'. The Kbd. and Syn. parts continue their eighth-note melody. The Syn. part's bass line remains active with eighth notes. The Bass and Perc. parts continue their accompaniment, with the Perc. part adding some syncopation.

Twos

Kbd. 

Syn. 

Bass 

Perc. 

Ones

Kbd. 

Syn. 

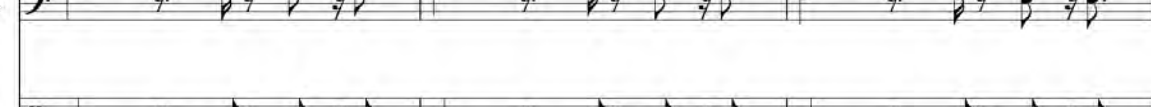
Bass 

Perc. 

Kbd. 

Syn. 

Bass 

Perc. 

Kbd.

Syn.

Bass

Perc.

This musical score consists of four staves. The top staff, labeled 'Kbd.', is in treble clef and contains a continuous eighth-note melody. The second staff, labeled 'Syn.', is in treble clef and contains a continuous eighth-note melody. The third staff, labeled 'Bass', is in bass clef and contains a continuous eighth-note melody. The fourth staff, labeled 'Perc.', is in bass clef and contains a continuous eighth-note melody. All four staves end with a double bar line.

Luau

Dan Mark

Marimba



Mrb.



Mrb.



RELAX V

In honor of the man, the myth, the legend

Composer - Proctopus circa 2010

Arranged by: Danny Mark 2022

A

The musical score is for a piece titled "RELAX V" in honor of "the man, the myth, the legend". It is composed by Proctopus circa 2010 and arranged by Danny Mark in 2022. The score is for a full ensemble and is written in B-flat major (two flats) and common time (C). The piece is marked "A" in a box at the beginning. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Synth Pad:** Plays sustained chords in the upper register of the piano.
- Bells:** Plays a melodic line starting in measure 4, with a sequence of notes: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.
- Xylophone:** Plays a melodic line starting in measure 4, with a sequence of notes: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.
- Vibraphone 1:** Plays a melodic line starting in measure 4, with a sequence of notes: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.
- Vibraphone 2:** Plays a melodic line starting in measure 4, with a sequence of notes: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.
- Marimba 1:** Plays a melodic line starting in measure 4, with a sequence of notes: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.
- Marimba 2:** Plays a melodic line starting in measure 4, with a sequence of notes: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.
- Electric Bass:** Plays a melodic line starting in measure 4, with a sequence of notes: G2, A2, Bb2, C3, Bb2, A2, G2, F2, E2, D2, C2.
- Percussion:** Plays a melodic line starting in measure 4, with a sequence of notes: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.

The score includes dynamic markings: *f* (forte) for the Marimba 1, *mp* (mezzo-piano) for the Marimba 2, and *p* (piano) for the Percussion. The Percussion part is marked "Near bell with stick" and "Sus" (sustained).

relax v

[illegible]

This musical score is for the song "The Sound of Silence" by Simon & Garfunkel. It features a variety of instruments and vocal parts. The instruments include a Pad, Bells (Bls.), Xylophone (Xyl.), Vibraphone (Vib.), Maracas (Mrb.), and Electric Bass (E.B.). The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The vocal parts are for Simon (S) and Garfunkel (G). The instrumental parts are for the Pad, Bells, Xylophone, Vibraphone, Maracas, and Electric Bass. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24 indicated. The Pad part consists of sustained chords. The Bells, Xylophone, and Vibraphone parts play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The Maracas part consists of a steady eighth-note rhythm. The Electric Bass part plays a simple bass line. The vocal parts are for Simon and Garfunkel, with Simon singing the lead and Garfunkel providing harmony. The score is written in a standard musical notation with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4.

relax v

4

25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

Pad

Bls.

Xyl.

Vib.

Vib.

Mrb.

Mrb.

E.B.

Perc.

mp Tom

The musical score is for a percussion ensemble, spanning measures 25 to 32. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The score includes parts for the following instruments: Pad, Bls. (Bells), Xyl. (Xylophone), Vib. (Vibraphone), Mrb. (Maracas), E.B. (Electric Bass), and Perc. (Percussion). The Percussion part features a tom pattern marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The score is divided into two systems, with measures 25-32 shown in the first system. The notation includes various rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth notes, and dynamic markings.

33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40

Pad

Bls.

Xyl.

Vib.

Vib.

Mrb.

Mrb.

E.B.

Perc.

E

4312

Detailed description: This musical score page contains measures 33 through 40. The instruments are Pad, Bls., Xyl., Vib., Mrb., E.B., and Perc. Measures 33-38 are characterized by triplet patterns in the woodwinds (Bls., Xyl.) and vibraphone (Vib.). The maracas (Mrb.) and electric bass (E.B.) provide a steady eighth-note accompaniment. In measures 39 and 40, the vibraphone and maracas parts change to a more complex, syncopated pattern, while the woodwinds and electric bass continue their previous patterns. A box labeled 'E' is positioned above measure 39. A rehearsal mark '4312' is located at the beginning of measure 39 in the first maraca part.

relax v

6

Pad

Bls.

Xyl.

Vib.

Vib.

Mrb.

Mrb.

E.B.

Perc.

F

relax v

8

57 58 59 60 61 62 63

Pad

Bls.

Xyl.

Vib.

Vib.

Mrb.

Mrb.

E.B.

Perc.

snare & bass drum

The Check Pattern

and 14 Duple Variations

The Check Pattern



THE 14 DUPLÉ VARIATIONS

THREE BEAT PATTERNS

Var. 1



Var. 2



Var. 3



Var. 4



TWO BEAT PATTERNS

Var. 5



Var. 6



Var. 7



Var. 8



V.S.

p. 2 Check Pattern and 14 Duples: snare and bass drum

Var. 9



Var. 10



ONE BEAT PATTERNS

Var. 11



Var. 12



Var. 13



Var. 14

