# PRACTICE TECHNIQUES

#### DR. BRAD MEYER

"Practice means to perform, over and over again in the face of all obstacles, some act of vision, of faith, of desire. Practice is a means of inviting the perfection desired."

~ Martha Graham, Modern American dancer, teacher, and choreographer

#### INTRODUCTION

Three generic concepts behind preparing a piece:

- 1) memorization (which IS optional)
- 2) rhythmic/pitch accuracy
- 3) musicianship

## String of Pearls by David Lang

#### **MEMORIZATION**

**Chronological** 

*Memorize Segment A* 

Memorize Segment B

Review Segment A

Review Segment B

*Put Together Phrase A+B* 

Memorize Segment C

Memorize Segment D

Review Phrase A+B

Review Segment C

Review Segment D

Put Together Phrase C+D

Review Phrase A+B

*Put Together Phrase A+B+C+D* 

etc.

Difficult-to-Easy

Example: 5, 3, 8, 6, 10, 1, 4, 2, 9, 7

Memorize 1

Memorize 2

Review 1

Review 2

Memorize 3

Review 1

Review 2

Review 3

Memorize 4

Review 1

Review 2

Review 3

Review 4

Memorize 5

etc.

*Put Together* 

5+3+8+6+10+1+4+2+9+7

### **Away From the Instrument**

Mentally running musical phrases in the "mind's practice room."

- stickings, notes, mallet intervals, dynamics, and body placement

## *Hand Separation* (Kevin Bobo)

Dividing music into separate parts relating to what each hand plays

#### **ACCURACY**

## Rhythmic Accuracy

The three main resources to improve rhythmic accuracy:

- 1) advanced metronome practice techniques
- 2) utilizing graph paper to analyze rhythmic groupings
- 3) notational software

## Pitch Accuracy

The best ways to develop pitch accuracy:

- 1) relaxation
- 2) slow tempo practice
- 3) pinpoint playing zones.
- 4) efficient movement of the mallets (ie: stickings)/hands/arm/body

#### **MUSICIANSHIP**

The key to a virtuosic performance:

- 1) accuracy of the musical content
- 2) mastery of musical phrases and concepts



For more information, please go to: <a href="http://www.Brad-Meyer.com">http://www.Brad-Meyer.com</a>

Brad Meyer is a proud endorsee of:
Yamaha Instruments
Evans Drumheads
Vic Firth Sticks and Mallets
Tycoon Percussion







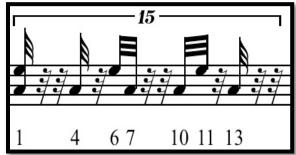


# "STRING OF PEARLS"

BY DAVID LANG



Ex: #2 - "5 over 3"

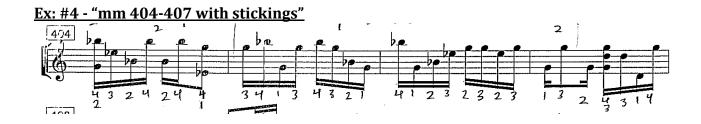


## "STRING OF PEARLS"

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Ex: #3 - "mm. 404-407"





Ex: #5 - "mm. 42-67"

