

Advanced Concepts for Snare Drum

by Brad Meyer

“#1” from Delécluse’s *Douze Études pour Caisse-Claire*

3 Basic Strokes

Full - (a.k.a. “legato”) - full down, full up

Down - (a.k.a. “marching staccato”) - full down, small up

Up - (a.k.a. “lift stroke”) - small down, full up

4 Advanced Strokes: in order of intensity/volume

Tenuto (heavy, back of the hand, glancing blow) - “agogic accents” - slightly louder than a regular stroke

Staccato (starts lower than it ends, “quick up”) - between a tenuto and legato note

Accented (full down and up) - one level louder than previous notes

Marcato (heavy/fast down, mild up) - over one level louder than legato note

Practice tips for “Delécluse’s #1”

- imply the meter at the beginning
- it should “dance”
- dynamic markings (there are more than 2!)
- clear drags
- *piano* practice

***Walkin Down Coolidge* by Joseph Tompkins**

Helpful Guidelines for Rolling

- Slower is usually better than faster, especially for soft rolls.
- Determine the roll-base at the tempo you will ultimately perform the piece, then always stay true to that roll-base when practicing under tempo.
- Overlap your soft rolls.

Performing Uneven Note Groupings Accurately

- Slow practice of small chunks
- With a metronome -> multiple different subdivisions
- Make a “play-along” track with the metronome in it
- Practice going from one uneven grouping to another

“#1” from Brad Meyer’s *Eight Gestures: for solo concert snare drum*

Dr. Brad Meyer (www.Brad-Meyer.com) is a percussion artist and composer with an extensive and diverse teaching background. Currently, Brad is the Director of Percussion Studies at Stephen F. Austin State University (Nacogdoches, TX) where he directs the percussion ensemble and steel band (“Jacks of Steel”). He also teaches the private percussion lessons and percussion methods course at SFA. Dr. Meyer was recently the Visiting Instructor of Music in Percussion/Percussion Ensemble Director at Centre College (Danville, KY) and the Adjunct Professor of Percussion at Tennessee Technological University (Cookeville, TN) during the fall of 2011. Dr. Meyer often tours to universities and high schools throughout the Southern and Midwestern states presenting recitals and workshops on topics such as electro-acoustic percussion, contemporary marimba, concert snare drum, marching percussion, and world music. Brad is the Vice President of the Kentucky Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society as well as a member of the PAS’s Technology Committee. Dr. Meyer completed his Doctorate of Music in Percussion Performance and Pedagogy of Music Theory certificate in 2011 under James Campbell at the University of Kentucky, where he also graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Music Performance in 2006. Brad is a proud endorsee of Yamaha Instruments, Vic Firth Stick and Mallets, Evans Drumheads, and Tycoon Percussion.



Videos and more at: <http://www.Brad-Meyer.com>

