Music Through Motion

A 21st Century Approach to Marimba Dr. Adam Davis

Know Thy Instrument – Some Facts

The only things that really matter:

Where you hit it

What you hit it with

How much energy is transferred (E = $\frac{1}{2}$ MV²)

Acoustics of the Marimba

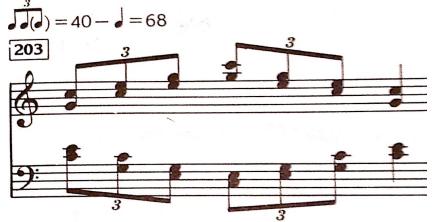
- Resonators
 - Resonators ≠ Longer Ring
 - Resonators = Louder Ring
- Bars and Playing Areas
 - Center/Edge = Darkest Tone
 - Node = Brightest Tone
- Mallets
 - How heavy?
 - How are they wrapped?
 - Think about attack profiles piano, strings, brass, woodwinds, etc.
- Stroke Modifiers
 - Height
 - Weight
 - Stroke Direction (Up, Down, Full)
 - Velocity

Know Thy Motion – Efficiency is the Name of the Game Small Muscles use less energy than Large Muscles

- Interval Shifts most efficient
 - o Method of Movement Exercises 227 258



- Arm Shifts less efficient
 - o Method of Movement Exercise 203



- Body Shifts least efficient
 - Method of Movement Exercise 430



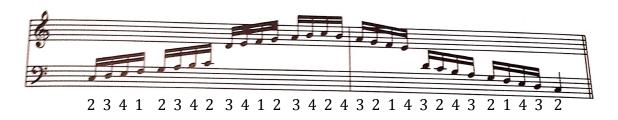
Know Thy Music – Employ Technique Musically

The path that the mallet travels is determined by your sticking

The motion of the mallets is the music!

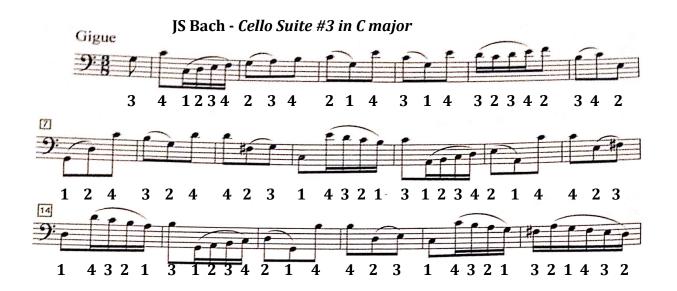
- General Rules for Sticking with 4-Mallets
 - o Use efficient motion
 - o Incorporate all four mallets
 - Work backwards to realize the best sticking
 - o Minimize shifting between upper and lower manuals
 - Be comfortable crossing hands
 - o Separate polyphonic music into individual hands or mallets
 - o Visually group notes into single gestures with Sequential Sticking

- Sequential Sticking
 - o Method of Movement Exercise 590



F# Major 1 2 3 4 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 2 3 4 2 4 3 2 4 3 2 1 4 3 2 4 3 2 1

Applications and Examples



Eric Sammut - Indifference



