Percussion Comprehensive Exams – Study Guide

Performance Tempo Ranges

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Keyboard Etude

Helpful hints
1. Learn the etude by identifying the underlying harmony
2. Default to alternated sticking when possible
3. Rolls will be unmetered, speed based on range
4. Release rolls with enough time to cleanly attack the note that follows

Assessment
1. Playing in time
2. Correct pitches/rhythms
3. Good tone based on playing spot
4. Piston stroke
5. Dynamic contrast
6. Correct range of instrument
7. Triple to Duple rhythms in time
8. Tempo range

Snare Drum Etude

Helpful hints
1. All rolls will be closed/buzz rolls
2. Choose an in time roll base that is appropriate for the tempo you are performing.
3. Consecutive flams are usually easier when alternated
4. Only accent beg/end of rolls if it is marked with an accent.
5. Accent the flams in m. 36
6. Make a difference between tied rolls and the un-tied rolls in m. 10

Assessment
1. Playing in time
2. Correct rhythms
3. Good dynamics contrast on the drum
4. Accent to tap dynamic/height
5. Roll base – rhythmic and in time
6. Quality of buzz strokes and flams
7. Tempo range
Timpani Etude

Helpful hints
1. Practice your tuning change
   a. Sing at a keyboard
   b. Sing/play at the drum
2. Rolls will be single stroke/alternated/metered (sextuplets work best at the written tempo and a little below)
3. Tune in time! The bracketed “2” is 2 measures of rest, not a fermata.
4. Determine your sticking/roll base according direction of movement.
5. Attempt to demonstrate articulations based on what you learned in class (check your course pack) (Marcato will be defined as in between Legato-Staccato)

Assessment
1. Correct pitches/rhythms
2. Tone based on playing spot
3. Stroke based on articulation
4. Roll base – rhythmic and in time
5. Sticking Choices
6. Tuning in time/correctly
7. Tuning technique
Timpani
j = 120
Moderato Legato
F♯ - C♯

Etude No. 14

Staccato

Marcato
cresc.
cresc.