

"Chorale" Preliminary Exercises

By Jacobo Vega-Albela

The image displays ten staves of drum notation, each labeled with a measure number (5, 8, 12, 15, 17, 20, 23, 25) and the instrument 'Dr.'. The notation includes various rhythmic patterns, time signatures, and dynamic markings.

- Staff 5:** Time signature 5/8. Pattern: quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note. Repeated four times.
- Staff 8:** Time signature 5/8. Pattern: quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note. Repeated four times.
- Staff 12:** Time signature 7/8. Pattern: quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note. Repeated four times.
- Staff 15:** Time signature 7/8. Pattern: quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note. Repeated four times.
- Staff 17:** Time signature 7/8. Pattern: quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note. Repeated four times.
- Staff 20:** Time signature 7/8. Pattern: quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note. Repeated four times.
- Staff 23:** Time signature 7/8. Pattern: quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note. Repeated four times.
- Staff 25:** Time signature 5/8. Pattern: quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note. Repeated four times.

29

Dr.

32

Dr.

39

Dr.

Practice Notes

Each exercise is separated by a repeat sign. Play each exercise slowly for a long time until you are comfortable with it. **ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU CAN SIMPLIFY!**

- Exercise no. 1 puts the hands and feet in 5/8.
- Exercise no. 2 puts the hands in 7/8 while the feet remain in 5/8. The bass drum emphasizes the downbeats of the first and fourth measure. Remember you can simplify! Take the bass drum out until you get comfortable with the hands and hi hat. Try the hi hat with no splashes at first.
- Exercise no. 3 puts the hands and feet in 7/8.
- Exercise no. 4 puts the hands in 5/8 while the feet remain in 7/8.
- Exercise no. 5 is rhythmically similar to no. 2, however in this instance the ride cymbal plays a 7/8 clave (2+2+3) while the left hand fills in the missing eighth notes on the snare. The foot ostinato is identical to no. 2.
- Exercise no. 6 has an identical foot ostinato to nos. 2 & 5. The right hand plays our 7/8 clave (2+2+3) and the left hand plays two backbeats that occur commonly in the song.
- Exercise no. 7 is pure 7/8. Once again, the left hand plays two backbeats that occur commonly in the song.

Exercises 6 and 7 are meant to be used as frameworks for improvisation! This whole piece is made up of a poly-meter that can be heard as five measure phrases of 7/8, or seven measure phrases of 5/8 – a thirty-five beat cycle. The second backbeat in both examples falls at the same point in this cycle: the twenty-sixth eighth note! This allows you to use that as a pivot point when phrasing in 7/8. The backbeat in the fourth measure of exercise no. 7 marks ten eighth notes from the top of the next cycle, allowing you to imply or outright switch to 5/8 a measure-and-a-half before the cycle ends.