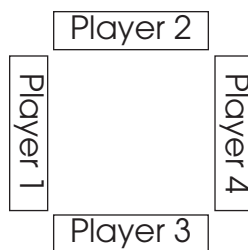


The Prevailing Eighth Note

by John H. Beck

Suggested Setup



Performance Suggestions

This piece is divided into three sections - Section A (m. 1), Section B (m. 47), and Section C (m. 63).

Section A (m. 1 - 46) - This section is played by all four players in unison.

Section B (m. 47 - 62) - At measure 47, Player 1 plays the written three-measure phrase and continues to repeat measures 47 - 49. After Player 1 plays the phrase two times, Player 2 begins at measure 47 and continues to repeat measures 47-49. After Player 2 plays the phrase two times, Player 3 begins at measure 47 and continues repeating measures 49. After Player 3 plays the phrase two times, Player 4 plays the phrase and continues.

Once all four players are playing, continue the pattern, but mix it up by playing other drums for the accent note and play the 2-sixteenth/eighth note rhythm on other beats of the measure. The idea is to improvise and eventually end up with all players playing the 2-sixteenth/eighth note rhythm together. Once that happens, continue to play for several measures till Player 1 gives a head cue to stop on a down beat.

Pause for a moment, then Player 1 starts measure 50 with fingers and continues to repeat that measure. In a random manner, Players 2, 3 & 4 join Player 1. Once all players are playing the eighth note pattern, each player improvises for approximately 20 seconds starting with Player 1. The others continue the eighth note pattern during the improvisations. At the end of each player's improvisation, the player will give the next player a head cue. The improvisation can be any rhythms, dynamics or tempo. When the last player is finished playing their improvisation, all players should continue to play the eighth note pattern until a head cue from Player 1 is given to continue on to measure 51.

At measure 62, all players play the eighth note rhythm softly continuing to repeat that measure four times until a solid eighth note rhythm has been established.

Section C (m. 63 - 137) - The intent of the section from measure 63 -110 is to confuse the prevailing eighth note. At measure 111, the eighth note accelerates, and all players play in unison until measure 131.

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Grade 5
duration ca. 8:00

FULL SCORE

Section A

♩ = 112

Bongos

Hard felt mallets

Player 1
(Bongos, Timbales)

Player 2
(4 High Tom Toms)

Player 3
(4 Low Tom Toms)

Player 4
(4 Bass Drums laid flat
and muffled - Kick Bass
Drums would be best)

All players unison