

Allison Miller Jazz Drumset Clinic: Melodic Practicing

Sonnymoon For Two

by Sonny Rollins

Musical notation for the first three staves of the piece. The first staff has chords Bb7, Eb7, and Bb7. The second staff has Eb7 and Bb7. The third staff has Cm7, F7, Bb7, G7, Cm7, and D7. The melody is written in 4/4 time and consists of eighth and quarter notes.

The Basics

1. Rhythms only: SING IT WHILE YOU PLAY IT!

Three staves of rhythmic notation. Each staff shows a sequence of notes and rests, with 'x' marks below the notes indicating where to play. The rhythm is consistent across all three staves, following the melody's contour.

1a. Explore orchestrating the melody around the drums, following the contour of the melody.

2. Play alternating swinging 8th notes on snare while accenting the melody:

Musical notation for exercise 2. It shows a sequence of notes with accents (>) above them, indicating where to play. The notes are written in a way that suggests alternating swinging 8th notes on the snare while accenting the melody.

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2a. Explore orchestrating the accents around the drums.

3. Play the melody on the bass drum while keeping consecutive swinging 8th notes on the snare:

4. Play the melody on the hi hat while keeping consecutive swinging 8th notes not the snare:

5. Double the bass drum melody with cymbal crashes. Make sure it's still swinging!

6. Play alternating 8th note triplets on snare while accenting the melody:

6a. Explore orchestrating the accents around the drums.

7. Play the melody on the bass drum while keeping consecutive 8th note triplets on the snare:

8. Play the melody on the hi hat while keeping consecutive 8th note triplets on the snare:

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9. Double the bass drum melody with cymbal crashes:

Rudiments

1. Flams, flam taps, flam accents:

2. Flams - alternating sticking:

3. Singles, Doubles, Paradiddles and Paradiddle variations:

4. Doubles:

4a. Explore orchestrating the accents on the toms.

Grooves

1. Jazz time w/ melody on snare.
- 1a. Jazz time w/ melody on bass drum.
- 1b. Jazz time w/ melody on hi hat.

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2. Jazz time w/ melody on bass drum while filling in triplets w/ left hand on the snare:

Musical notation for exercise 2. It consists of a single staff in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The notation shows a series of eighth notes on the bass line, with 'x' marks above them indicating a melody on the bass drum. Above the staff, there are four groups of triplets, each marked with a '3' and an 'x' above the notes, indicating a triplet pattern on the snare drum.

2a. Explore moving left hand around the drums.

3. Samba:

Musical notation for exercise 3. It consists of a single staff in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The notation shows a series of eighth notes on the bass line, with 'x' marks above them indicating a melody on the bass drum. Above the staff, there are four groups of eighth notes on the snare line, each marked with an 'x' above the notes, indicating a snare melody.

3a. Samba variation:

Musical notation for exercise 3a. It consists of a single staff in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The notation shows a series of eighth notes on the bass line, with 'x' marks above them indicating a melody on the bass drum. Above the staff, there are four groups of eighth notes on the snare line, each marked with an 'x' above the notes and an accent (>) above the first note of each group, indicating a snare melody with accents.

4. Funk:

Musical notation for exercise 4. It consists of a single staff in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The notation shows a series of eighth notes on the bass line, with 'x' marks above them indicating a melody on the bass drum. Above the staff, there are four groups of eighth notes on the snare line, each marked with an 'x' above the notes, indicating a snare melody.

Vocabulary

1. Bebop:

Musical notation for exercise 1. It consists of a single staff in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The notation shows a series of eighth notes on the bass line, with 'x' marks above them indicating a melody on the bass drum. Above the staff, there are four groups of triplets, each marked with a '3' and an accent (>) above the notes, indicating a triplet pattern on the snare drum. Below the staff, there is a sequence of letters: R L RR RR RR RR RL LL LLRRLRLRLRLR LLRLRLRLRLR, representing the drum set pattern for the exercise.

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Solo Concepts

1. Send Offs:



2. Landing Points:



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Tunes

Level 1: Sonnymoon For Two, C Jam Blues, Bright Mississippi, Bags Groove, Bemsha Swing

Level 2: Green Chimneys, Blue Bolivar Blues, Tenor Madness, Blues Five Spot, In Walked Bud, Things Ain't What They Used to Be

Level 3: Straight No Chaser, Monk's Dream, Bye-ya, Au Privave, Nutty, Oleo

"Melody is King and Queen!" - Terri Lyne Carrington

"Pat your foot and sing the melody in your head, when you play." - Thelonious Monk

"Stop playing all those weird notes, PLAY THE MELODY!" - Thelonious Monk

"Say no to licks and YES to melody!" - Allison Miller

"Melody is Freedom! Free your mind!" - Allison Miller