

Bodhrán – An Overview

Workshop Outline

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TIPPER TECHNIQUE

- Stroke Types – Down, Up, Tap
- Playing Zones
- Incorporating the “Double-Down”

TONE TECHNIQUE

- Hand Position – Open, Muted, etc.
- Pops and Clicks
- Changing Pitch

ORNAMENTATION

- Double-Ended – Triplets, Rolls, etc.
- Single-Ended
- Complex Ornamentation

ACCOMPANYING TUNES

- Motor Rhythms – Reels, Jigs, Slip Jigs, Hornpipes
- Consider Instrumentation
 - e.g. Flute players must breath
- “Following” the Tune
 - Rhythm
 - Voicing
 - Ornamentation
- Development
 - Make changes each “pass”
 - e.g. Counterpoint
- Bodhrán as a Drum Set

WORKSHOP TUNES/ RECORDINGS

- *The Wedding Reel*
 - Reel – AABB
 - Justin Bridges
- *Kesh Jig*
 - Jig – AABB
 - *Foinn Seisiún 1*
- *The High Road to Kilkenny*
 - Slip Jig – AB
 - Justin Bridges
- *Spellan the Fiddler*
 - Hornpipe – AABB
 - John Skelton
- *The Murroe Polka*
 - Polka – AABB
 - *Shine* (Caroline Keane)
- *Charming Lovely Nancy*
 - Slide – AABB
 - *Shine* (Caroline Keane)
- *Thomas Power’s*
 - March – AABB
 - John Skelton
- *Thig Am Bata*
 - Song – Mixed-Meter
 - *Uam* (Julie Fowlis)
- *Ocean Child*
 - Reel – Drum Set Feel
 - *Ancora* (Flook)

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RECOMMENDED PLAYERS/ ALBUMS

- Dave Boyd
- Adam Brown
 - *Awakening* (Ímar)
- Cormac Byrne
 - *Stone Soup* (Adam Summerhayes)
- Anna Colliton
- Aimee Ferrell Courtney
 - *New Irish Music* (Chatham Saxophone Quartet)
- Niamh Fennell
- Kyle Forsthoff
- Jim Higgins
 - *Riverdance*
- John Joe Kelly
 - *Ancora* (Flook)
- Andy Kruspe
 - *Liminal* (Liminal Duo)
- Kieran Leonard
 - *How to Train Your Dragon*
- Paul McClure
- Eamon Murray
 - *Before We Change Our Mind* (Beoga)
- Siobhán O'Donnell
- Martin O'Neill
 - *In Session* (Various)
- Colm Phelan
 - *Rosc* (Goitse)
 - *Full Circle* (Colm Phelan)
- Amy Richter
- Rolf Wagels
 - *Bodhrán Insight* (Various)
- Robbie Walsh
 - *Allta* (Four Winds)
- Cara Wildman

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Instructional Material

- *The Bodhrán Primer* (Andy Kruspe)
- *Bodhrán Method* (Hal Leonard/ Amy Richter)
- Bodhrán Soup (Eamon Murray)
- Bite-Size Bodhrán (Eamon Murray)
- Learn the Bodhrán (Siobhán O'Donnell)
- Bodhrán Workshop Notices (Facebook)

Bodhrán Makers

- Hedwitschak Drums
 - Christian Hedwitschak (Germany)
- Metloef Irish Drums
 - Rob Forkner (Gresham, OR)

Tipper Makers

- Falconwood
 - Gordon Falconer (Netherlands)
- Joseph Mannion (Ireland)
- Stevie Moises (Germany)

Bodhrán Summer School

- BúlaBuzz (Clondalkan, Dublin, Ireland)
- Craiceann (Inis Oírr, Galway, Ireland)

Local Events

- Berea Celtic Festival (Berea, KY)
- Tune Junkie Weekend (Oak Ridge, TN)



Bodhrán Exercises

Stroke-Type Exercises

T=Tap (straight into the skin with an outward preparatory stroke)

D=Down (downward stroke with an upwards preparatory stroke)

U=Up (upward stroke with a downwards preparatory stroke)

A

T T T T T T T T D D D D D D D D U U U U U U U U

T T T T D D D D U U U U T T T D D D

U U U T T D D U U T D U T D U T/D

*Either stroke may be used for thr release

B

16th Note Timing

D U D U *sim.* D U T D U T D U T D U T T D U T D U T D U

D U U D U U D U U D U U U D U U D U U D U U D U U D/T

C

Accents/Open Tone Gridding

Play with skin muted while performing the accents, as accents only as open tones, or both

D

Syncopated Double Downs w/ Open Tone Accents

Staccato=muted, O=Open, repeat each bar as needed

Check

d t d t d t d d d u t d u t d u t d u t d u d u

D u t D u t D u t D u t D u D u D u D t D u t D u t D u t D u D u D u D

E Syncopated Double Downs into Syncopated Single-Ended Triplets
Check

t d t d t d t d t t t d u t d u t d u t d u d u d u

d u d u d u d u d u d u d u d u d u d u t/d

F Non-Syncopated Double-Ended Triplets
B= back (butt-end) of tipper, repeat each measure as needed
Check

d u d u d u d b u d u d u d u d b u d u d u d b u d u d u d b u

d b u d u d b u d u d u d b u d u d b u d u d b u d b u d u

d b u d u d u d b u d b u d b u d b u d b u

G Changing Pitches with Open Tones

Space notes (D,F,A,C,E) represent the open tones- try to produce the first five notes of a major scale
Skin open for lowest pitch, press with heel of hand and mute as needed with fingers for remaining open tones
Staccato B= generic closed/muted tone

D u d u

Dance/ Motor Rhythms

Reel

5

D u D u D u D u D u D u D u D u

Jig

5

D u t D u t D u t D u t D u T D u T D u T D u T

Slip Jig

11

D t D u t D u t D t D u t D u t

Hornpipe

15

D D u D D u D D u D D u

Polka

19

D u D u D u D u D d u D d u D d u D d u

Slide

25

D d U d u d u d U d u D d U d u d u d U d u

