

Introduction

The Three Camps, along with other traditional snare drum solos such as The Connecticut Halftime and The Downfall of Paris have been a staple of young percussionists for decades. They offer a basic yet musical application of the rudiments. The most basic in form of these is The Three Camps which is characterized by a simple repetitive accent pattern which lends itself to quick memorization. One does not need a great amount of reading skill to perform it and therefore the piece makes a great introduction to rudimental style drumming, even for the novice drummer. I have used the original as well as variations of the "Camps" to teach hand technique to my students for many years, always with great results. Although I have seen some variations in books by Charles Wilcoxon and Haskell Harr, there is no collection that contains more than two or three different variations. I have written the following pieces with this in mind. Many of the original 26 rudiments as well as some of the more modern PAS and hybrid rudiments are used as the foundation for these variations. In many cases different sticking patterns are presented for each piece. Some of the camps are written in a "3" based 12/8 meter while others are presented in common time. Tempos are solely up to the performer but I recommend starting slowly and using a metronome. I have also included some hand exercises and warm-ups that I use regularly and these are located in the back of the book. Don't hesitate to right your own variations-the possibilities are endless. Have Fun!