2020

Introduction to Pipe Band Drum Score Reading

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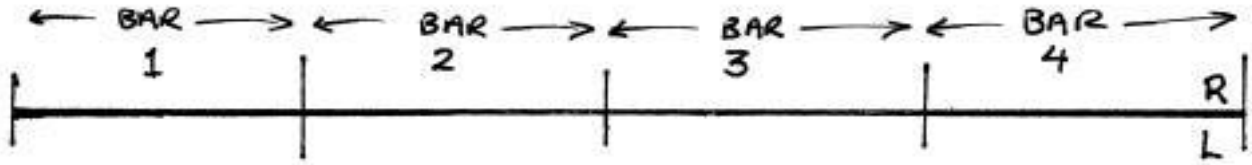
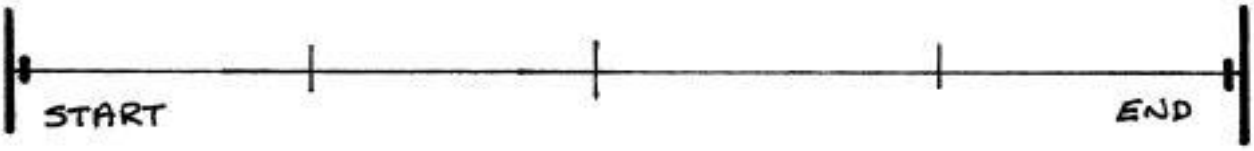
Basics:

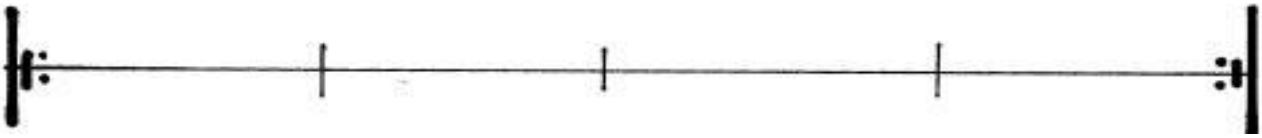
- Pipe band drumming only consists of **one line**.
- Any note (dot) on **top of the line** is played on the **right hand.**
- Any note **below the line** is played on the **left hand**.



- The vertical lines are used to divide the line up into **bars.**
- There are **always 4 bars in a line** of music.

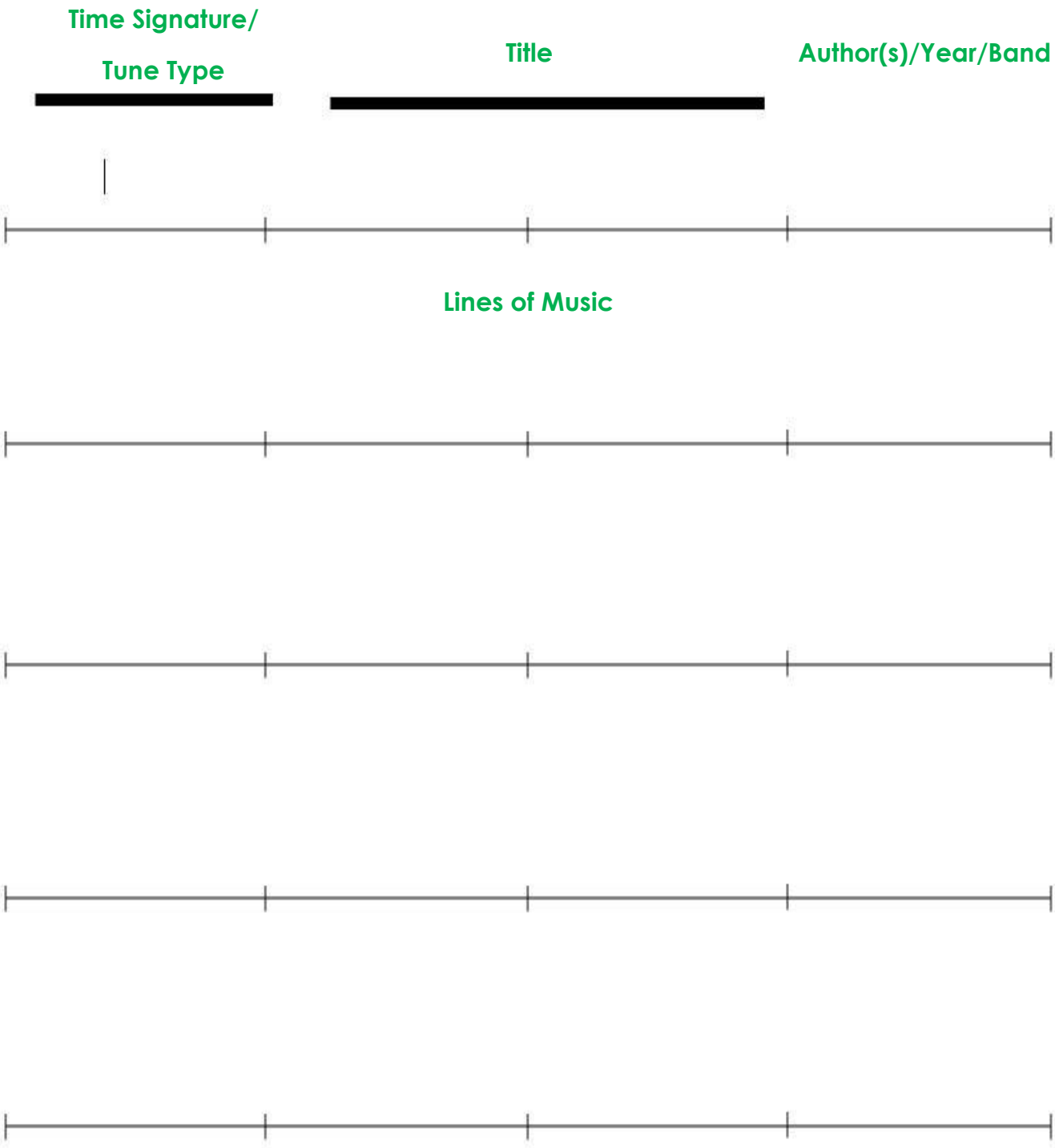


- The thick lines shown above show us where a part of music starts and finishes.
- When we see a long and short thick line only, we play that section once.
- When we see the **long and short line accompanied with 2 dots** as shown below, we **repeat** that piece of music again.

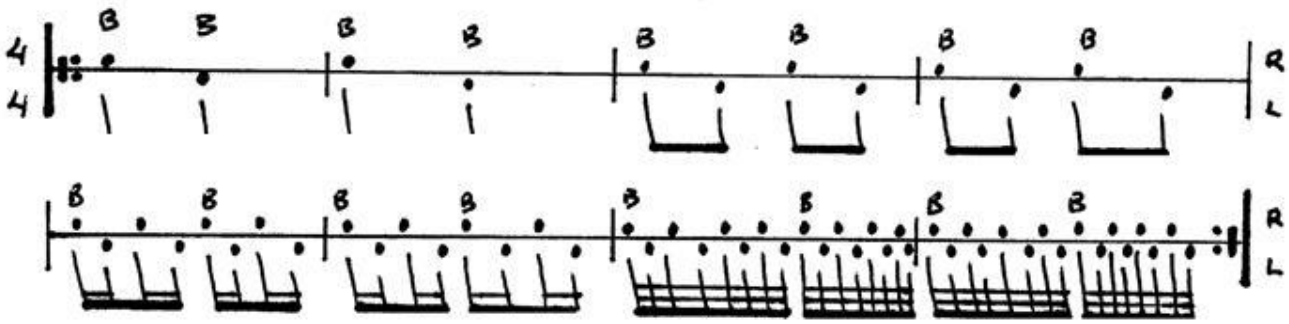


- When we have completed each part of music the correct number of times, we move on to the next part.

Sheet Layout:

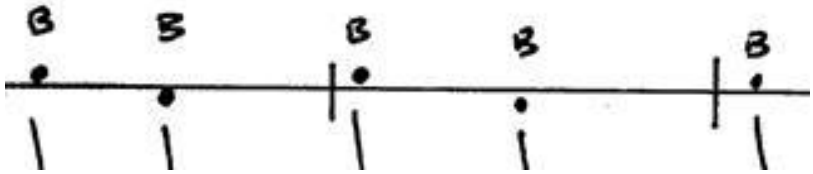


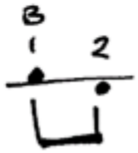
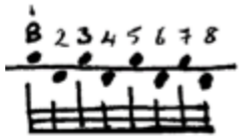
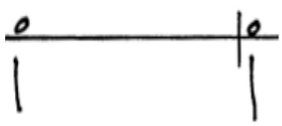
Singles & Note Values



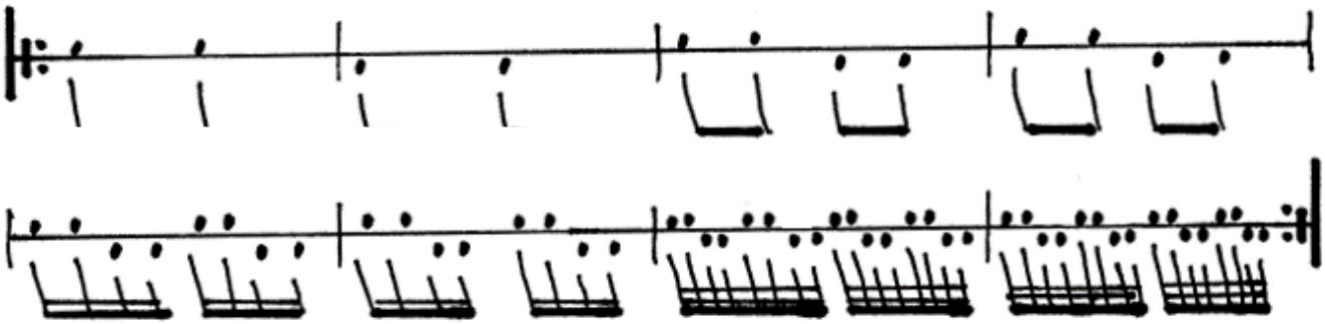
- In this exercise, each bar has three beats (represented above by the letter 'B').
- Each bar after bar one, starts with beat 1 and beat 3 of last bar. They are the same beat. See below.

123,123,1



Note	Name	Description
	1/4 Note	Next note is a **full beat after**.
	1/8 Note	Next note is **halfway** between first note and next beat.
	1/16 Note	**4 notes between beats**. First note on first beat.
	1/32 Note	**8 notes between beats**. First note on first beat.
	Whole Note	**Whole bar between notes**. Typically used to write opening rolls.

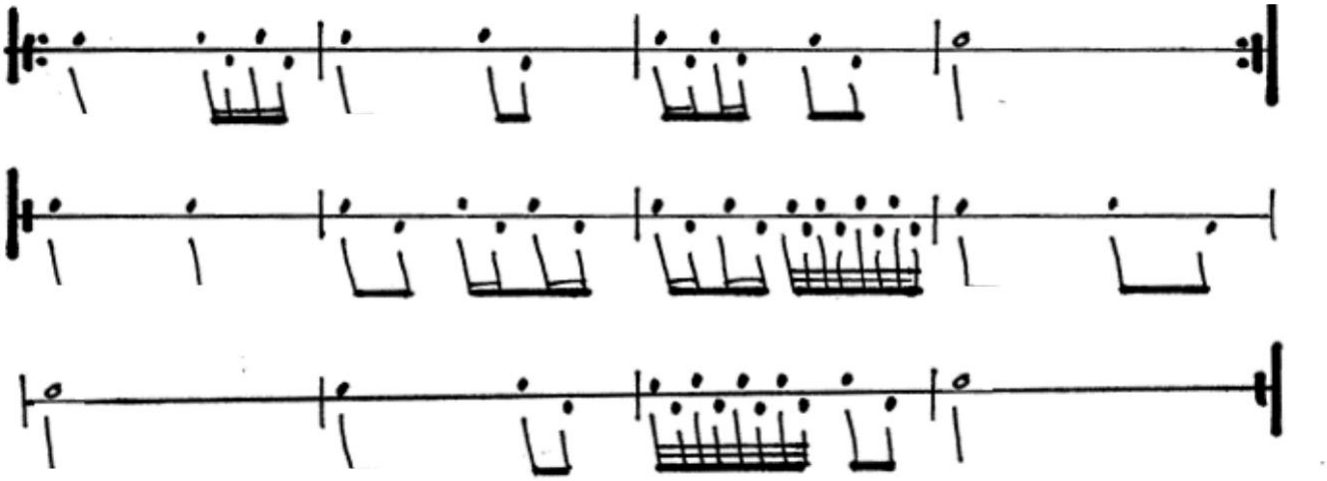
Mama Dada's (Doubles):



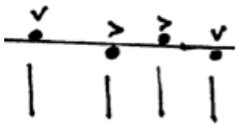
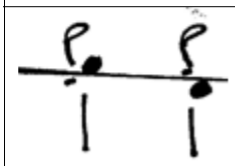
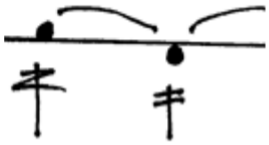
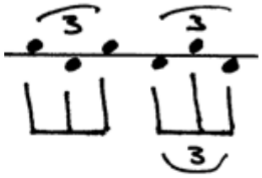
- **Even volume** on each tap. This avoids a "pulse" sound at speed.
- Use **wrist and arm movement along with bounce of pad/drum** to **get into a rhythm** when playing at speed.

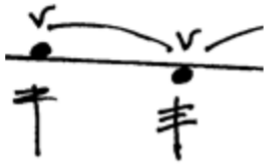
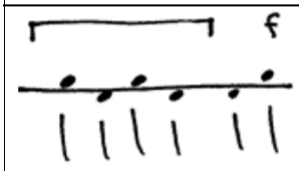
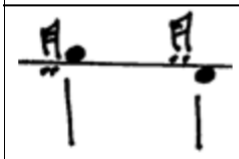
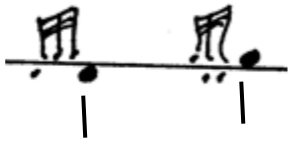
Exercise; Reading Test

- Read the exercise below and attempt to play through it using what you learned on the previous page.



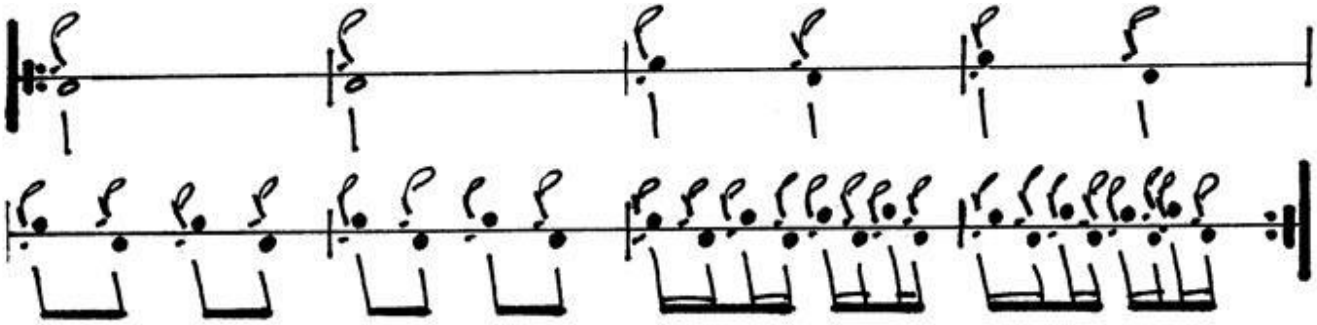
Symbols:

Symbol	Name
	Accent singles
	Flams
	Double stroked rolls
	Triple stroked rolls
	Triplet
	Roll single stroke (buzz)

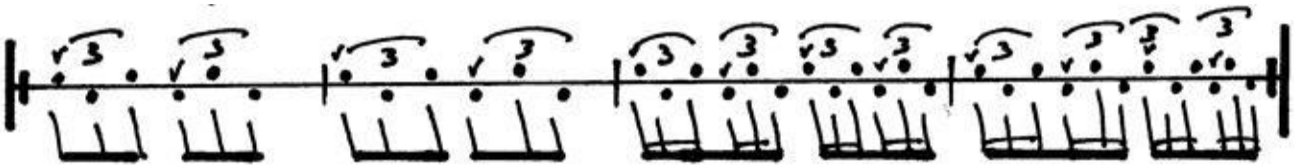
Symbol	Name
	Accented roll
	Chips/Fortes/Ins n' Outs *(Can also be highlighted)*
	Crescendo
	D-Crescendo
	Drags
	Swiss Ruffs

Basic Rudiments/Exercises:

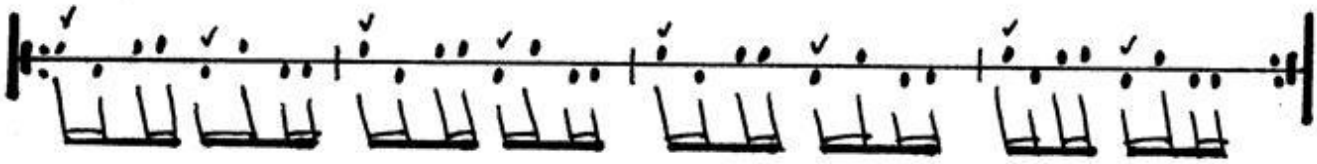
Flams:



Triplets with Accents:

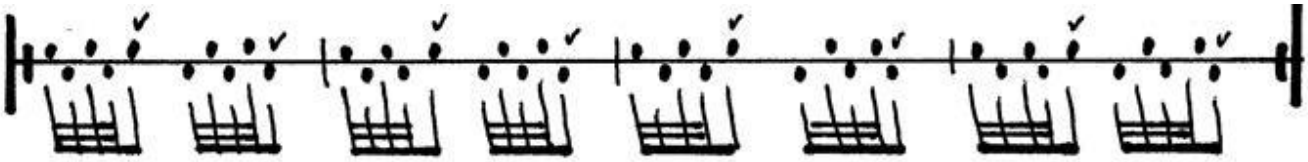


Paradiddles; Accent on 1

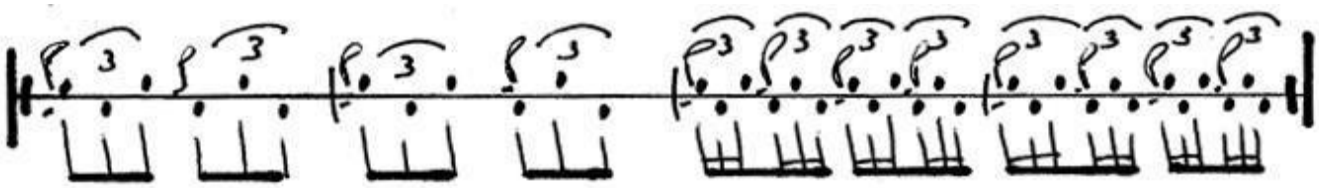


Flam Taps:

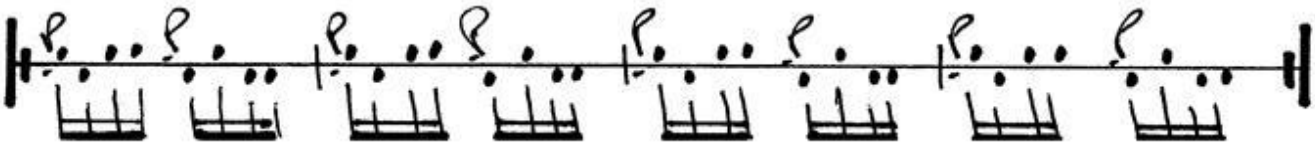
Fives:



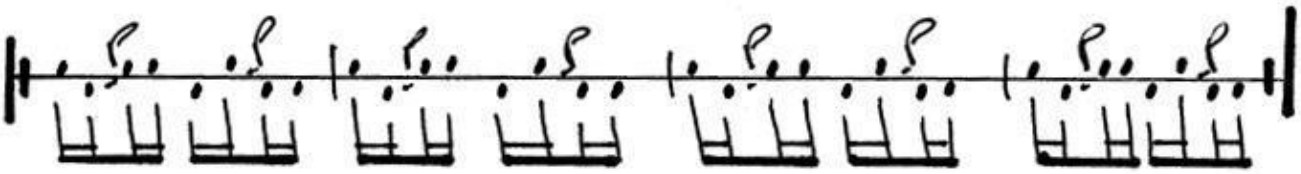
Triplets; with flams:



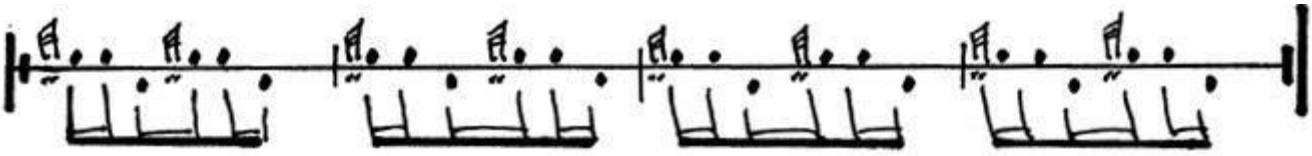
Flamadiddles:



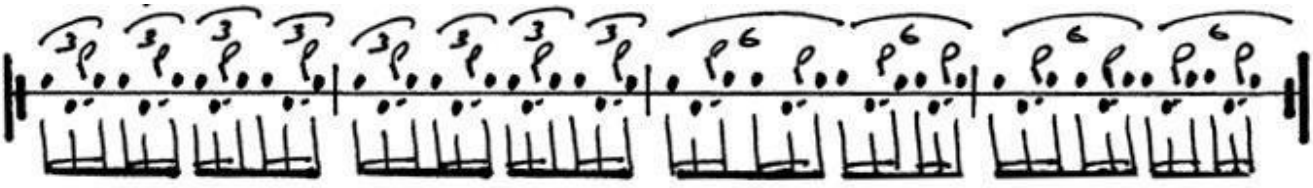
Flam Tap Paradiddles:



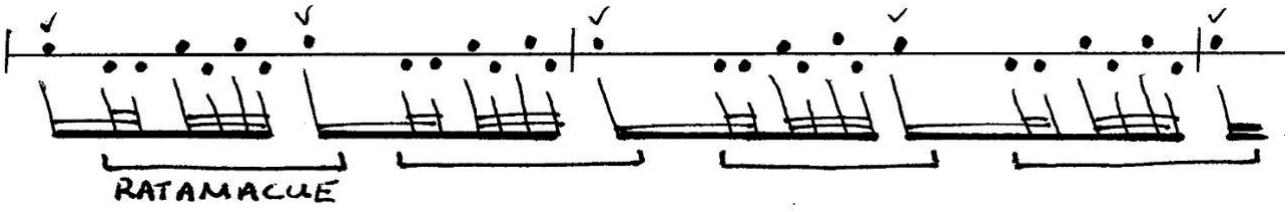
Drag TapTaps:



Flam Tap Triplets:



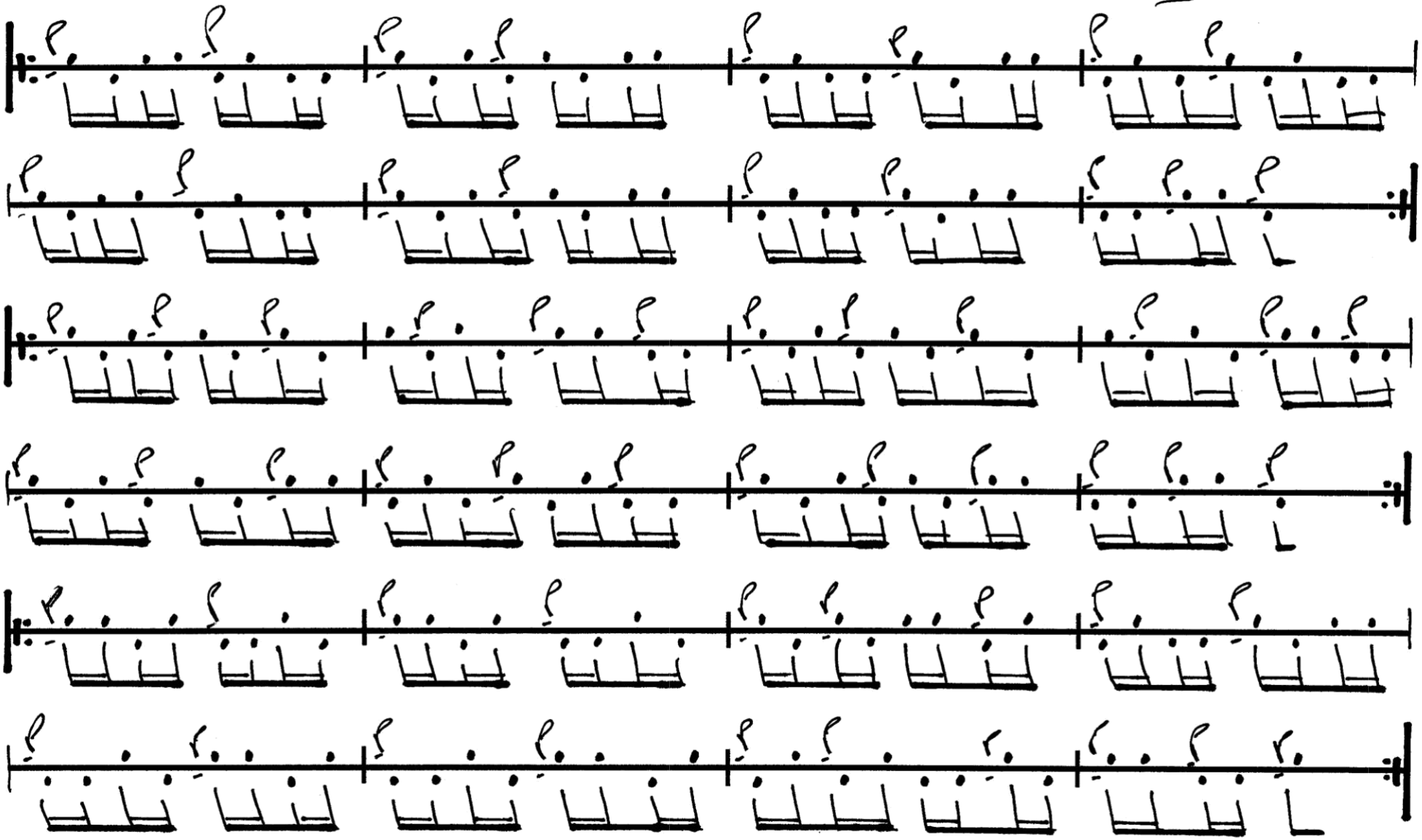
Ratamacues/Sevens:



4
4 EXERCISE

"FLAM - TAP - ADDIDDLES"

Aidan McCarthy
MAY 2020

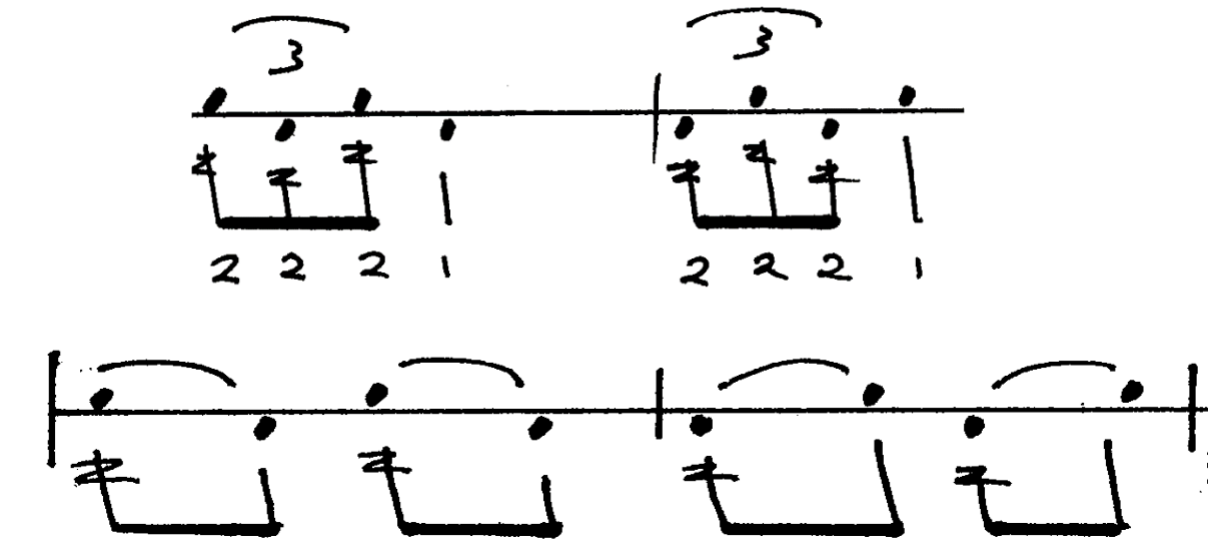


Rolls:

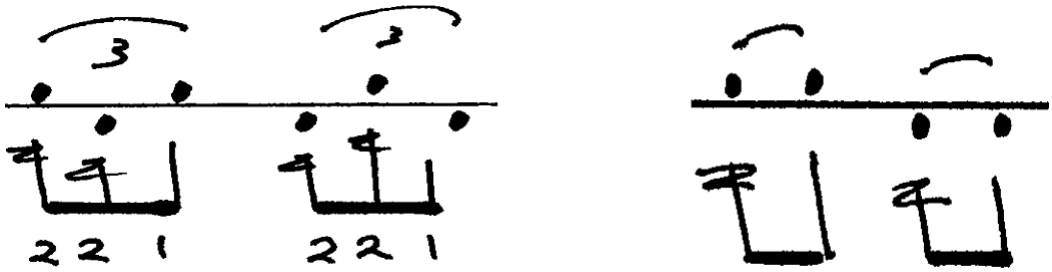
Roll Values:

- Rolls are made up of buzzes and taps.
- When we execute Mama Dada's (doubles) at a high tempo we get a roll.
- Therefore, a *buzz* in theory, is considered as two taps.
- A tap is considered one.

So if we want to play a **7 stroke roll**; we play *buzz (2), buzz(2), buzz(2), tap(1)*. **2+2+2+1=7**

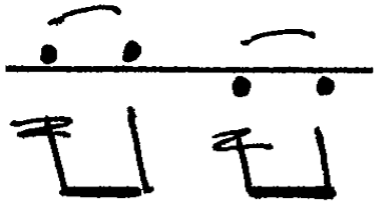
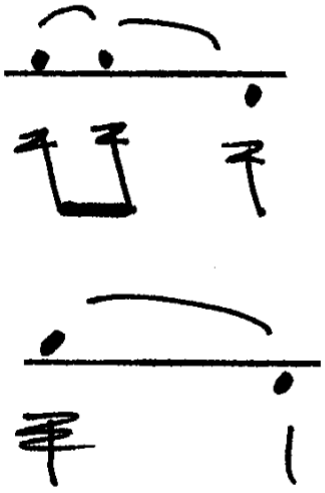
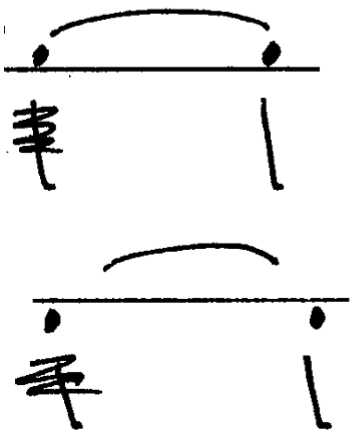
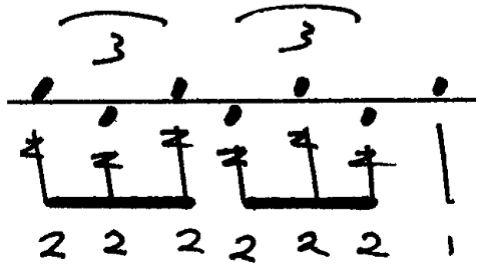


5 stroke would be *buzz (2), buzz(2), tap(1)*. **2+2+1=5**



The numbers given are the rolls **value**.

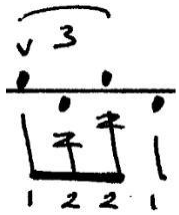
Key Roll Values:

Roll Value:	As Written	Description
5 Stroke		Buzz, buzz, tap.
7 Stroke		Buzz, Buzz, Buzz tap.
11 Stoke		Buzz, Buzz, Buzz, Buzz, Buzz, tap.
13 Stroke		Buzz, Buzz, Buzz, Buzz, Buzz, Buzz, tap. 

Accented Rolls:

- Accent rolls begin with a tap/accent.
- The beginning of the roll would have an accent symbol above it.
- Because the rolls start with a tap, they have different values but are very similar to standard rolls.

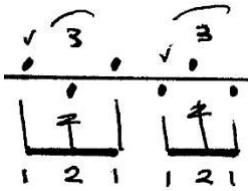
The 7 stroke roll becomes **6** when it is accented.



Tap (1), Buzz(2), Buzz(2), Tap(1). **1+2+2+1=6**

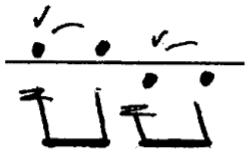
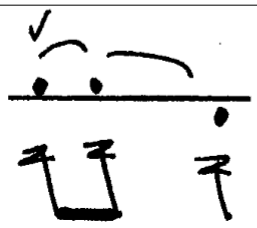
The 5 stroke becomes 4.

Tap(1), Buzz(2), Tap(1).

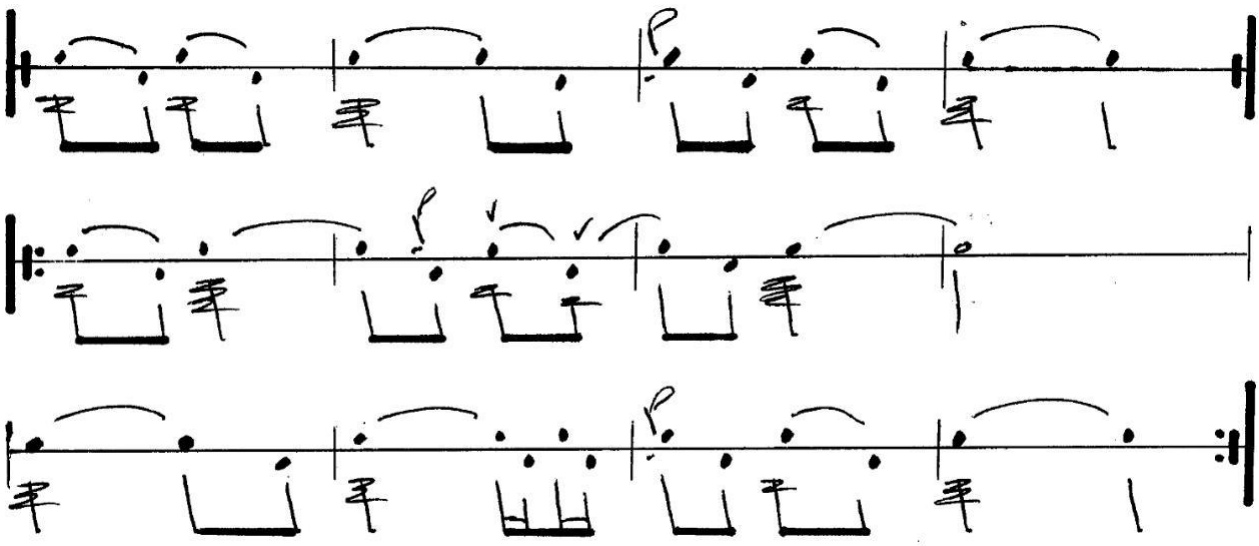


- ***When practicing accented rolls, make sure you are getting a clean tap into the rolls! This can be an awfully bad habit!!***

Key Accent Rolls:

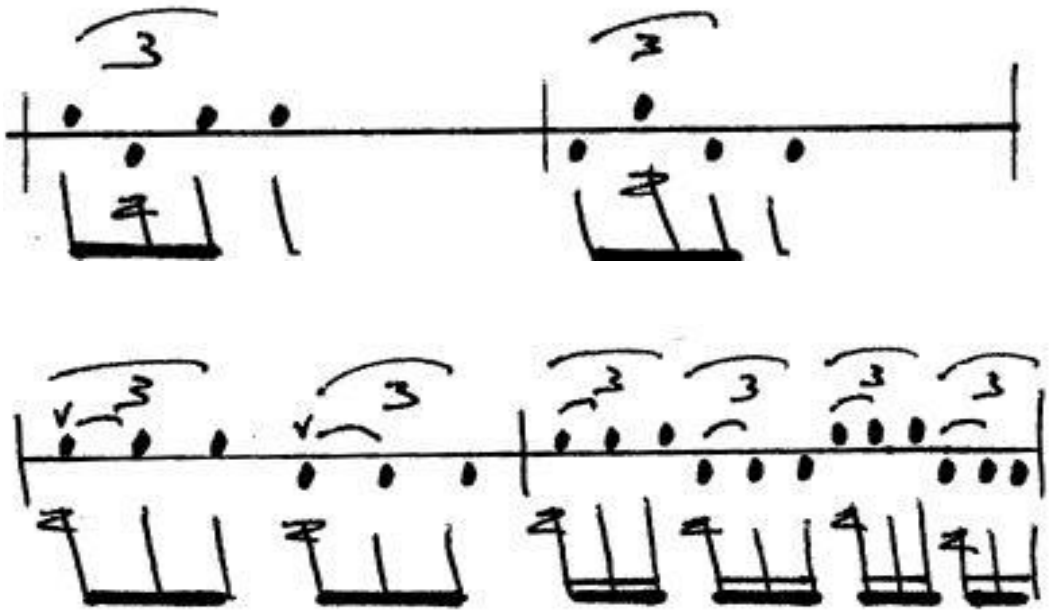
Roll Value	As Written	Description
4 Stroke		Tap, Buzz, Tap
6 Stroke		Tap, Buzz, Buzz, Tap
10 Stroke		Tap, Buzz, Buzz, Buzz, Buzz, Tap.

Roll Reading Exercise:



Triplet Rolls/Trizlets (Advanced):

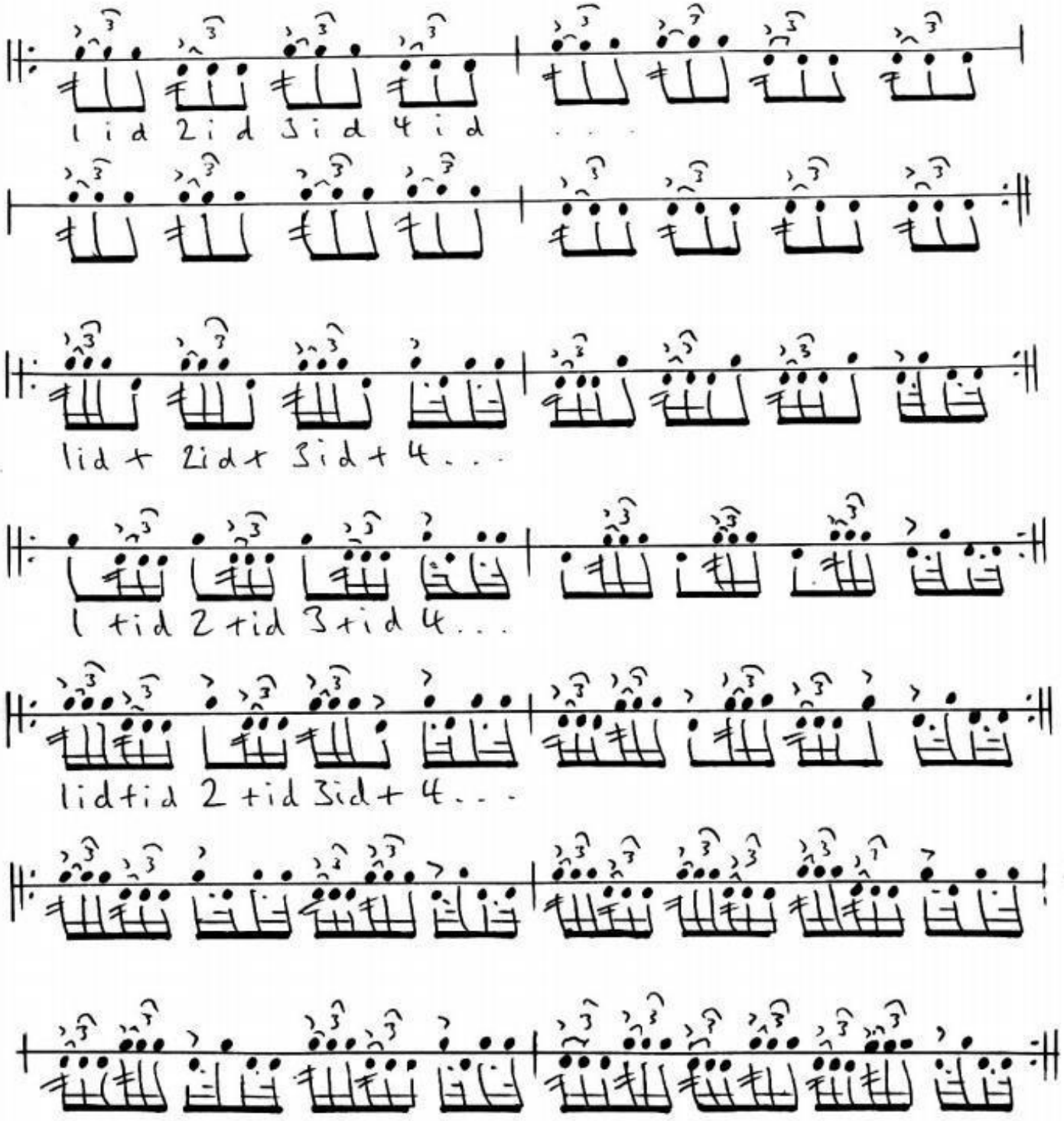
- Very advanced roll phrase.
- 4 stroke accented roll played within a triplet.
- Tap, Buzz, tap, tap.
- All taps on the same hand.



4
4

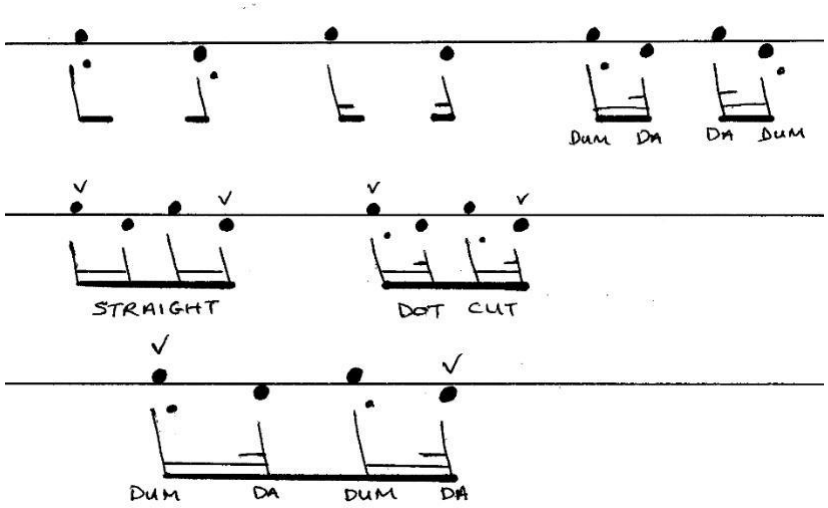
'THE TRIPLET ROLL THINGY'

DB APRIL 2020



Dots & Cuts:

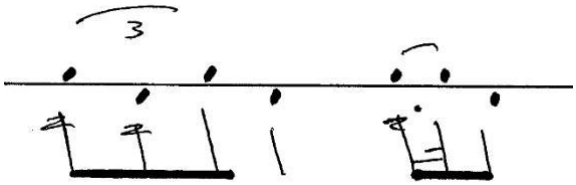
- Dots and cuts add groove to the music.
- They remove the straightness in the music and add a bouncy feel.
- When learning to reading dots and cuts it's best to speak out the phrase.
- ***Dotted*** *notes are read as* ***"dum"****.*
- ***Cut*** *notes are read as* ***"da"****.*



Dot Cuts in Rolls:

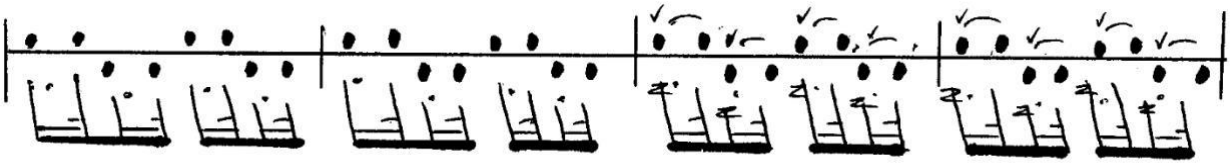
5 stroke Dot Cut roll:

- Typically starts on the right hand and is followed by a left tap.



4 stroke Dot Cut rolls:

- Uses same groove we used at the start of dots and cuts.

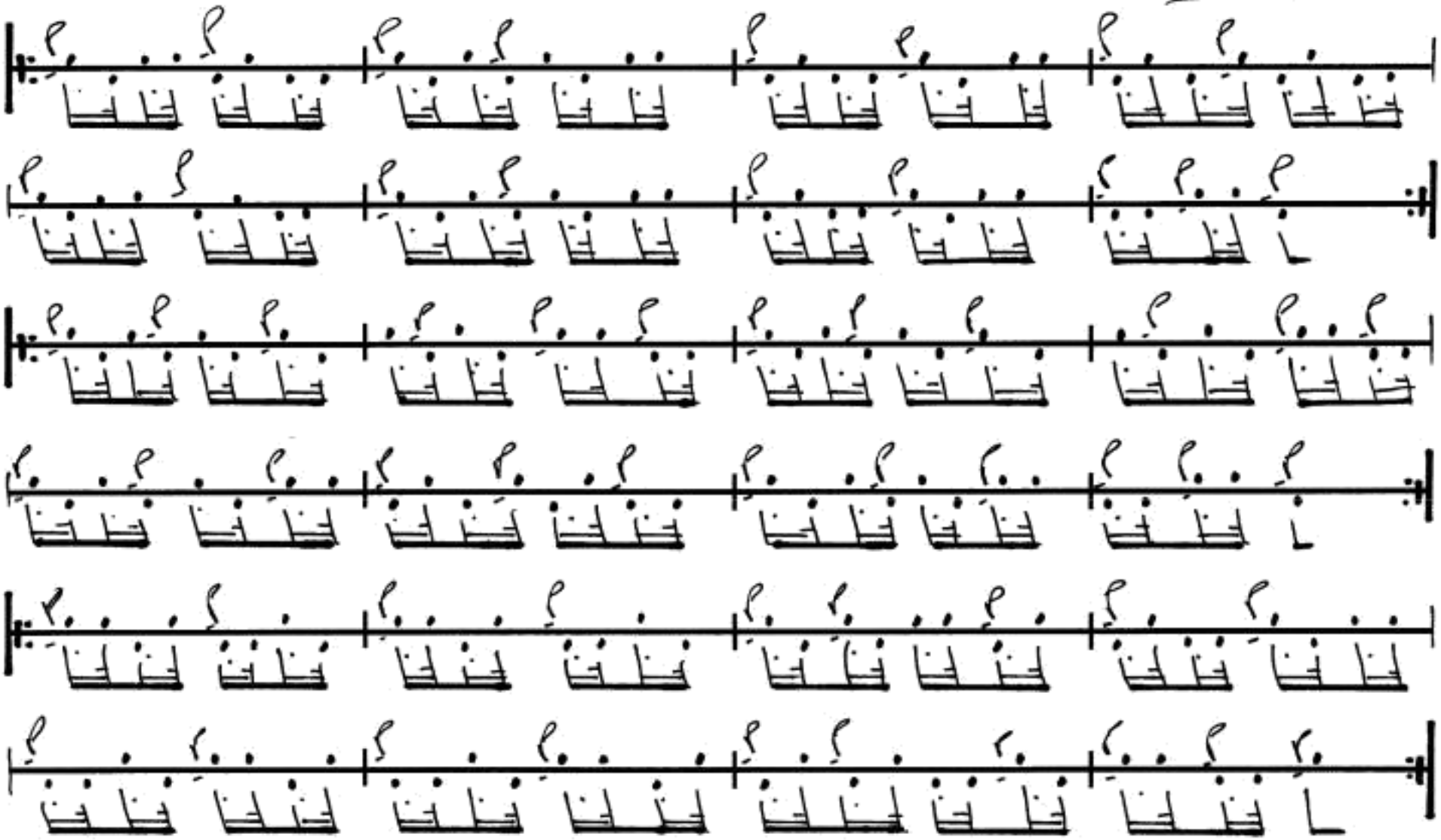


4
4 EXERCISE

"FLAM - TAP - ADDIDDLES"

DOT CUT VERSION

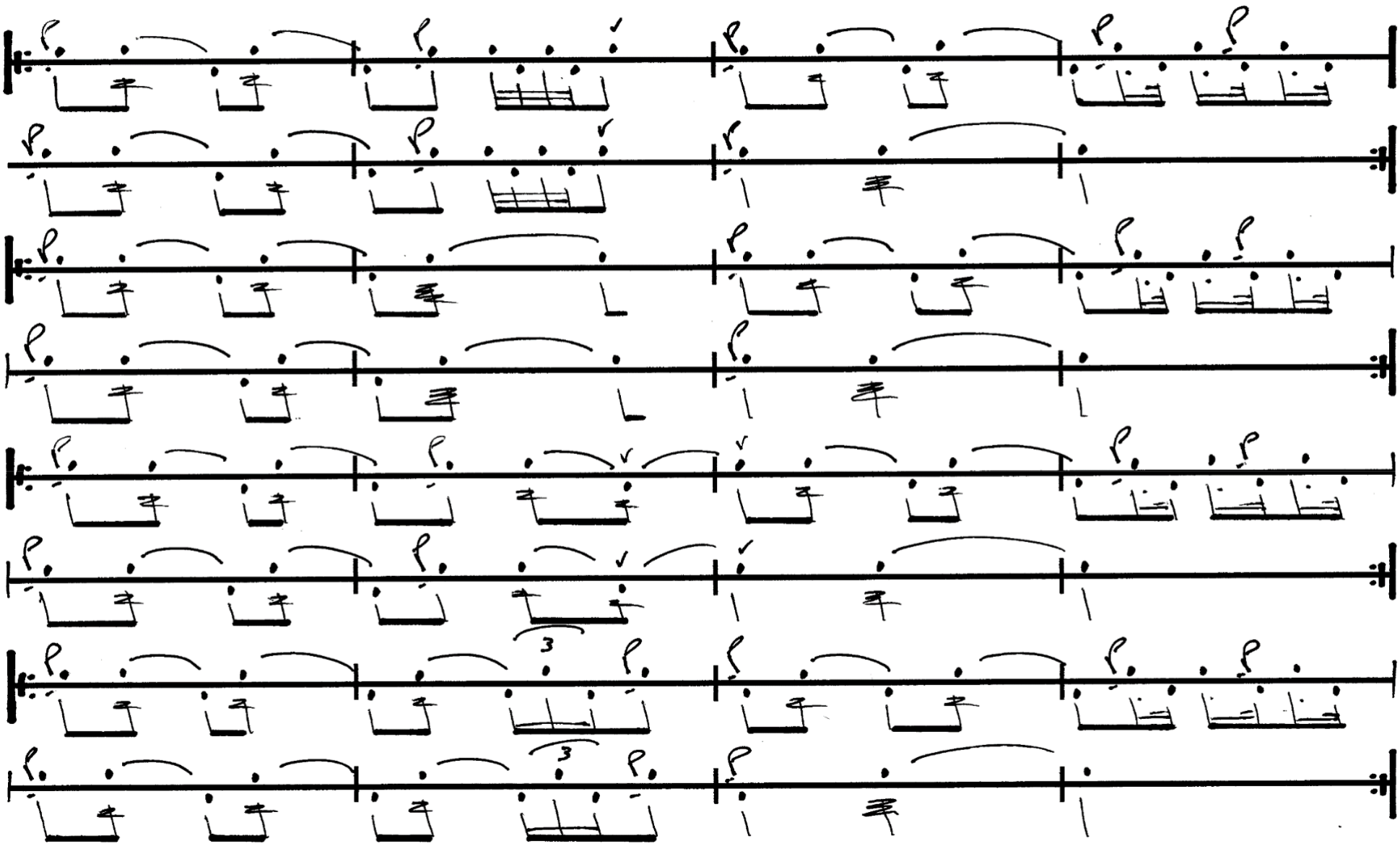
Adam McCarthy
MAY 2020



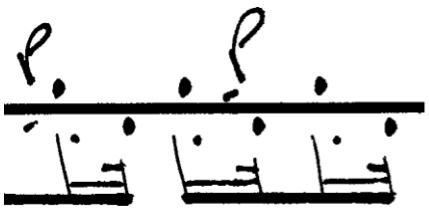
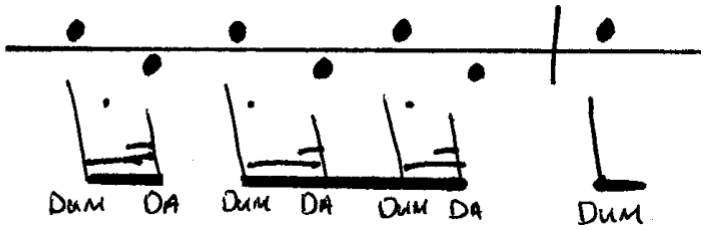
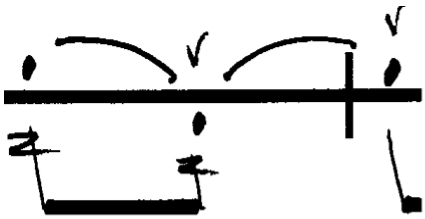
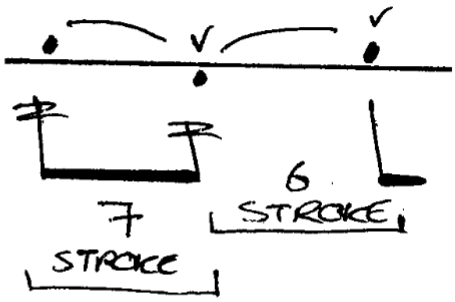
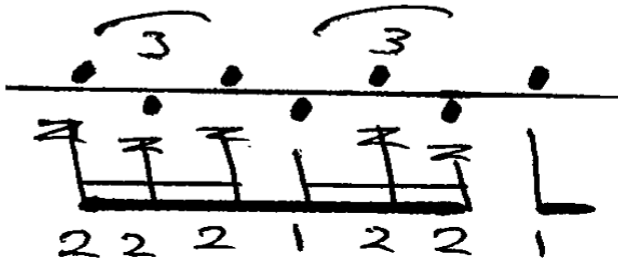
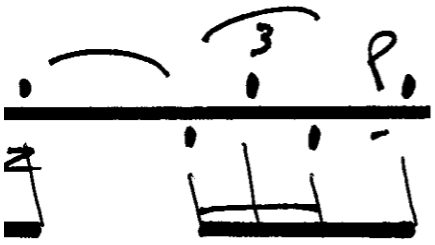
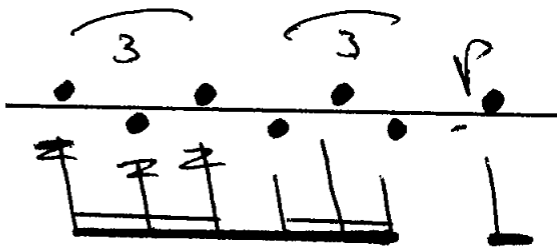
4/4 March

"Introduction 4/4 Marches"

Adam McCarthy
2020

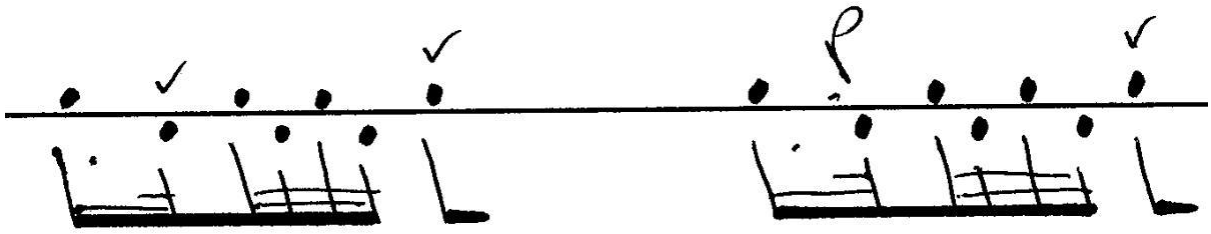


4/4 Breakdown of Phrases:

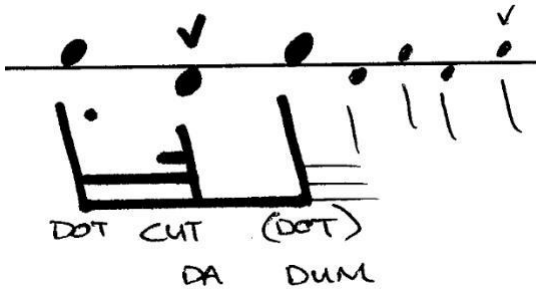
As Written	Breakdown
	 Just add flams when comfortable with rhythm.
	**7 Stroke roll** and **6 stroke roll together.** Last tap of 7 stroke is first tap of 6 stroke.  
	**Roll, Triplet, Flam Movement.** Very Common phrase. Triplet begins on end of 7 stroke roll. 

Tap 5/Flam 5 Movement:

- In this movement we play a flam, or a tap immediately followed by a 5.

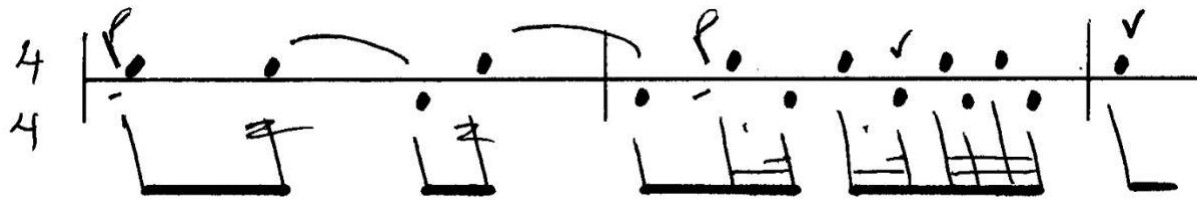


- If there is a note after a cut note, we treat that next note as if its dotted.
- We phrase it with the same "Da Dum" expression as if it were cut dot.



- This is also the case for dotted notes. If the note after does not have a cut, treat it like it does.

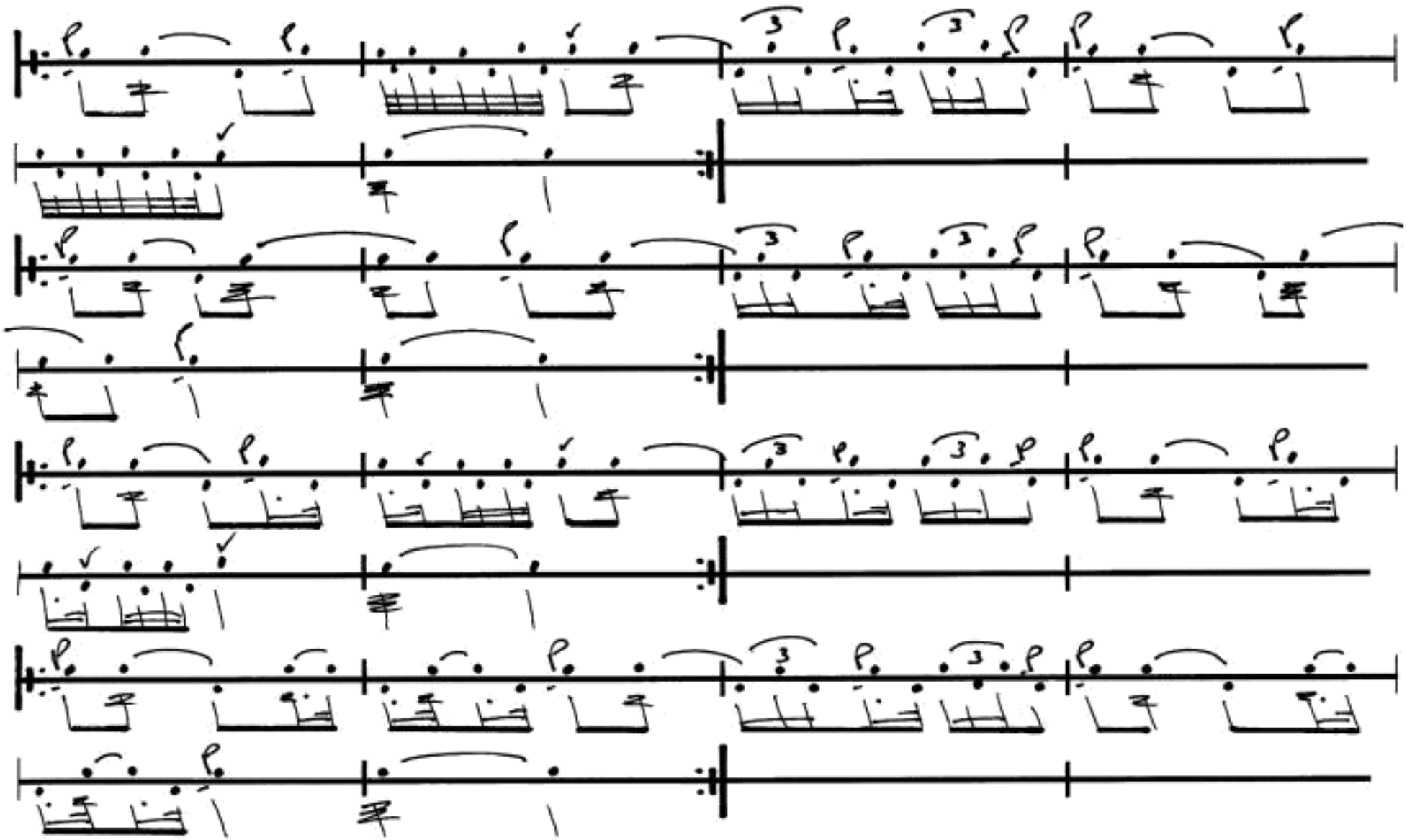
4/4 Phrase:



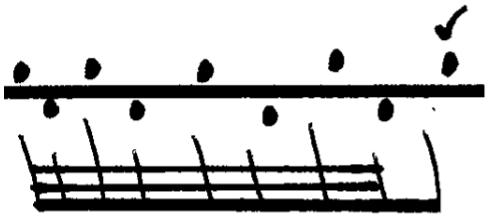
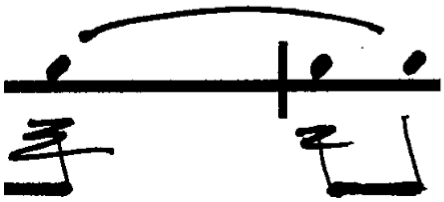
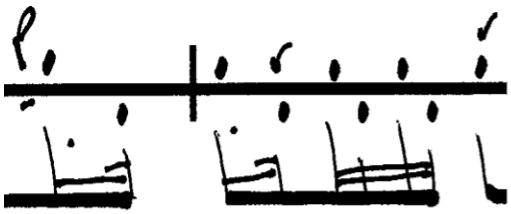
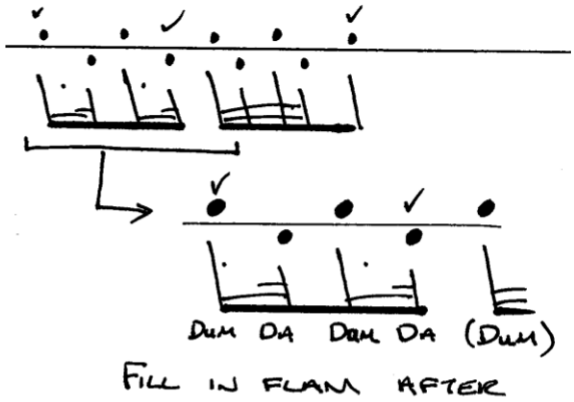
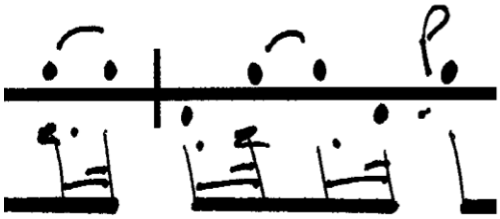
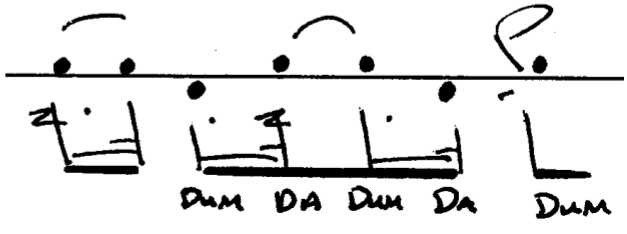
3/4 March

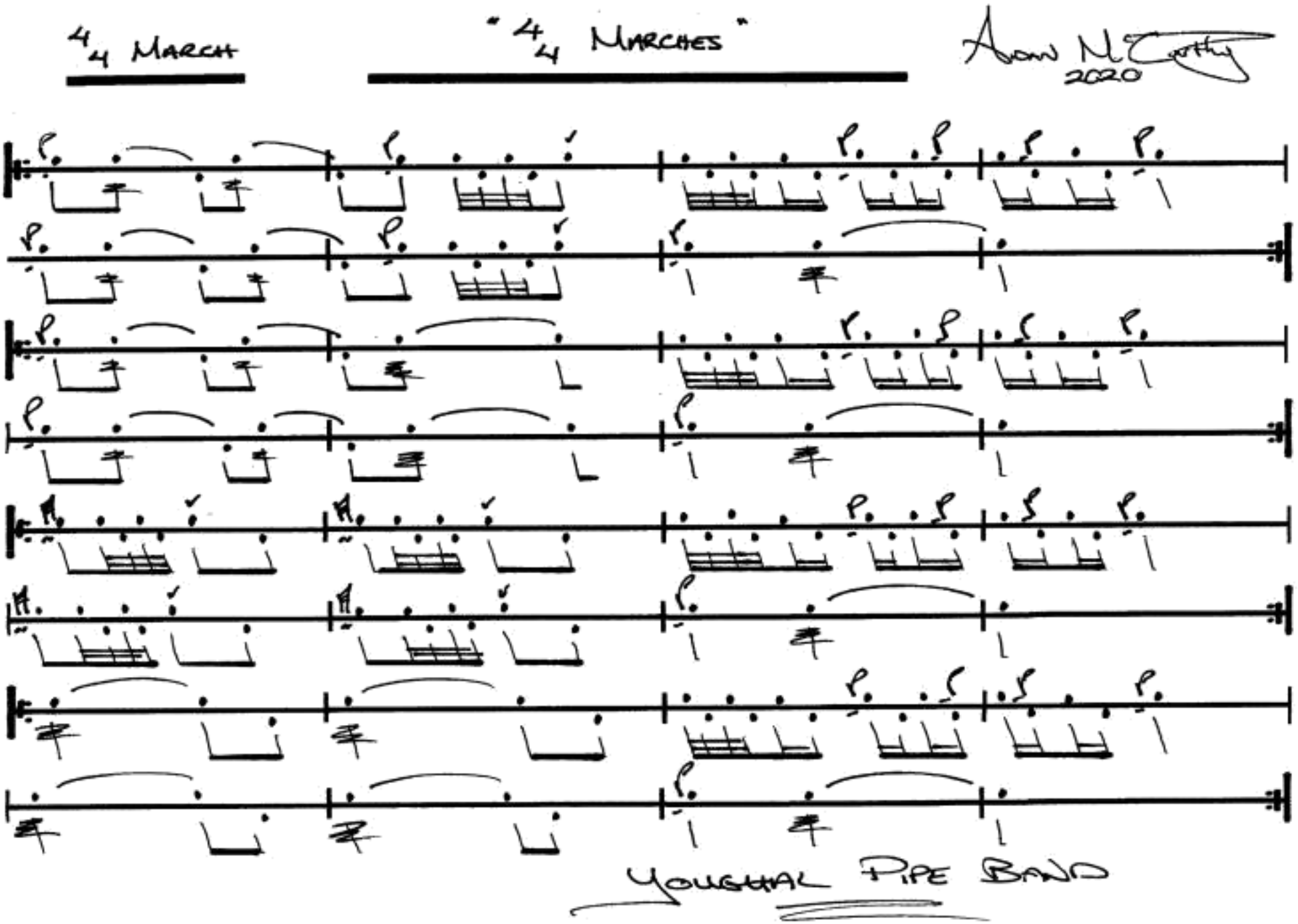
"Introduction 3/4 Marches"

Adam McCarthy
2020



Breakdown of Phrases 3/4:

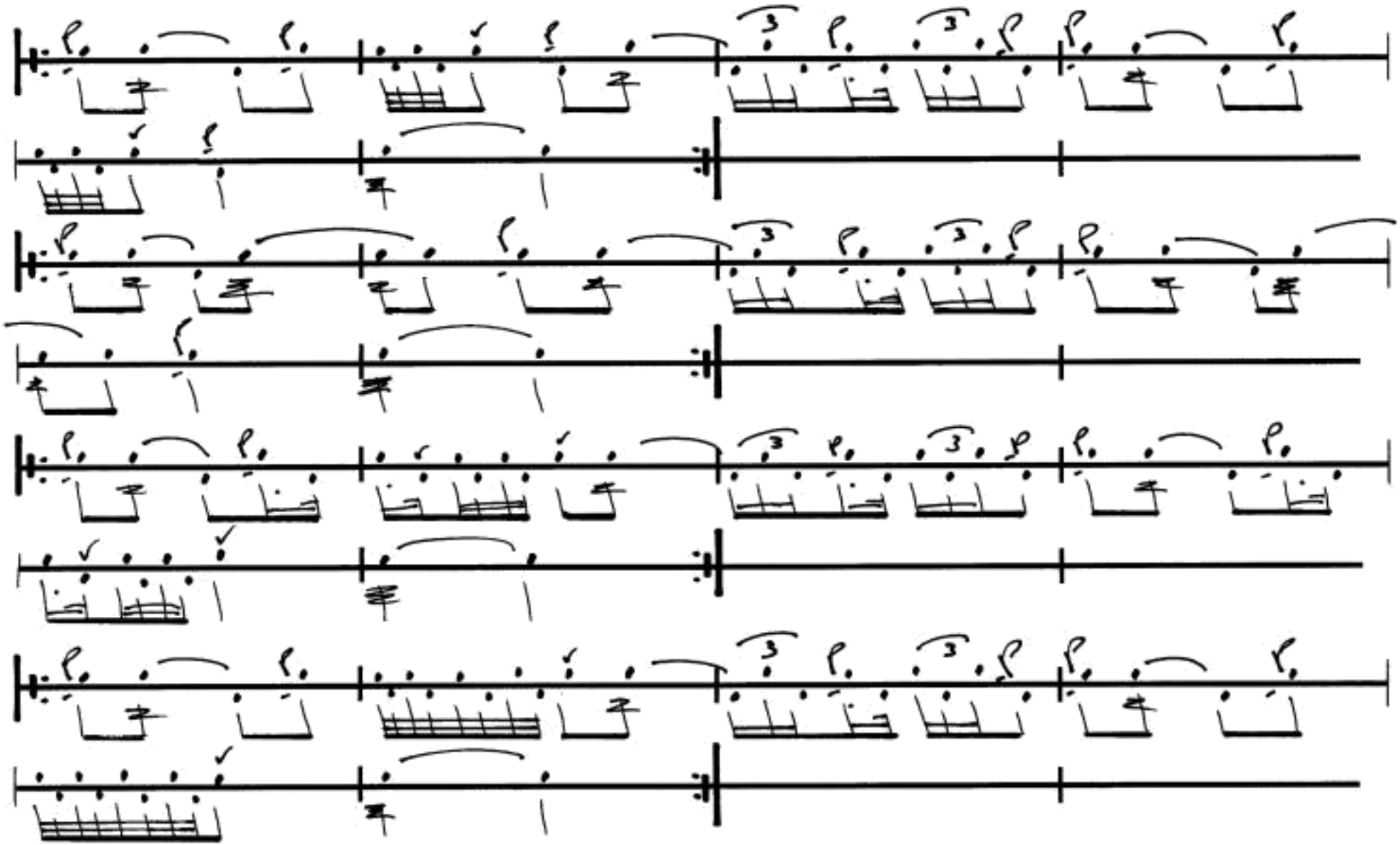
As Written:	Description
	**Nine:** Like a five with more taps. Starts and finishes on the beat.
	13 Stroke roll, across the beat. (Not finishing on the beat) Finishes 1/8 note after beat. Halfway between beats.
	
	5 stroke dot cut roll to start (see page16). 


4/4 March
"4/4 Marches"
Adam N. Carthy
2020
Youghal Pipe Band

3/4 March

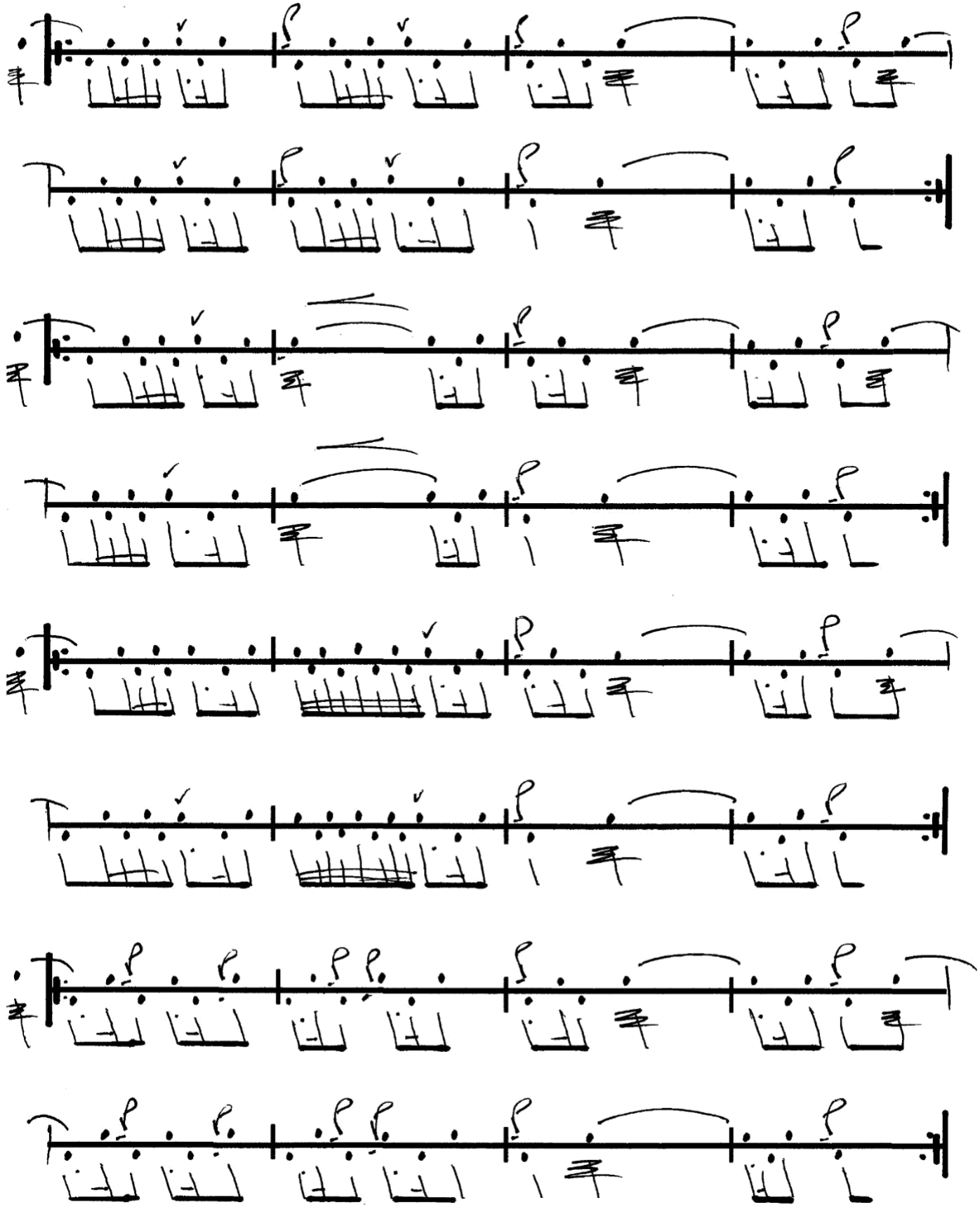
"3/4 Marches"

Adam McCarthy
2020



6/8 March "6 & Marches"

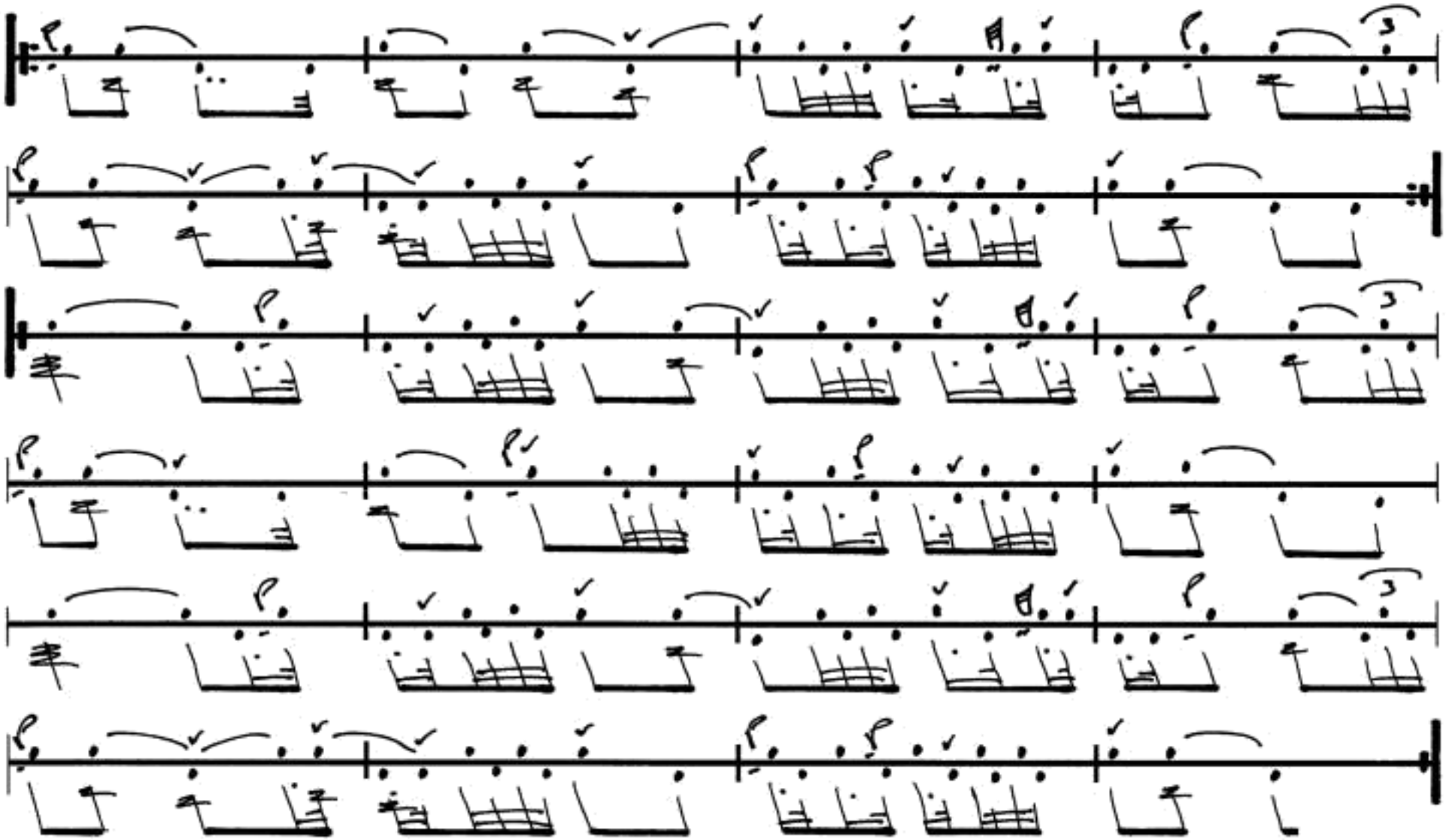
Adam McCarthy 2016



2/4 MARCH

"TERIBUS"

Adam McCarthy 2018

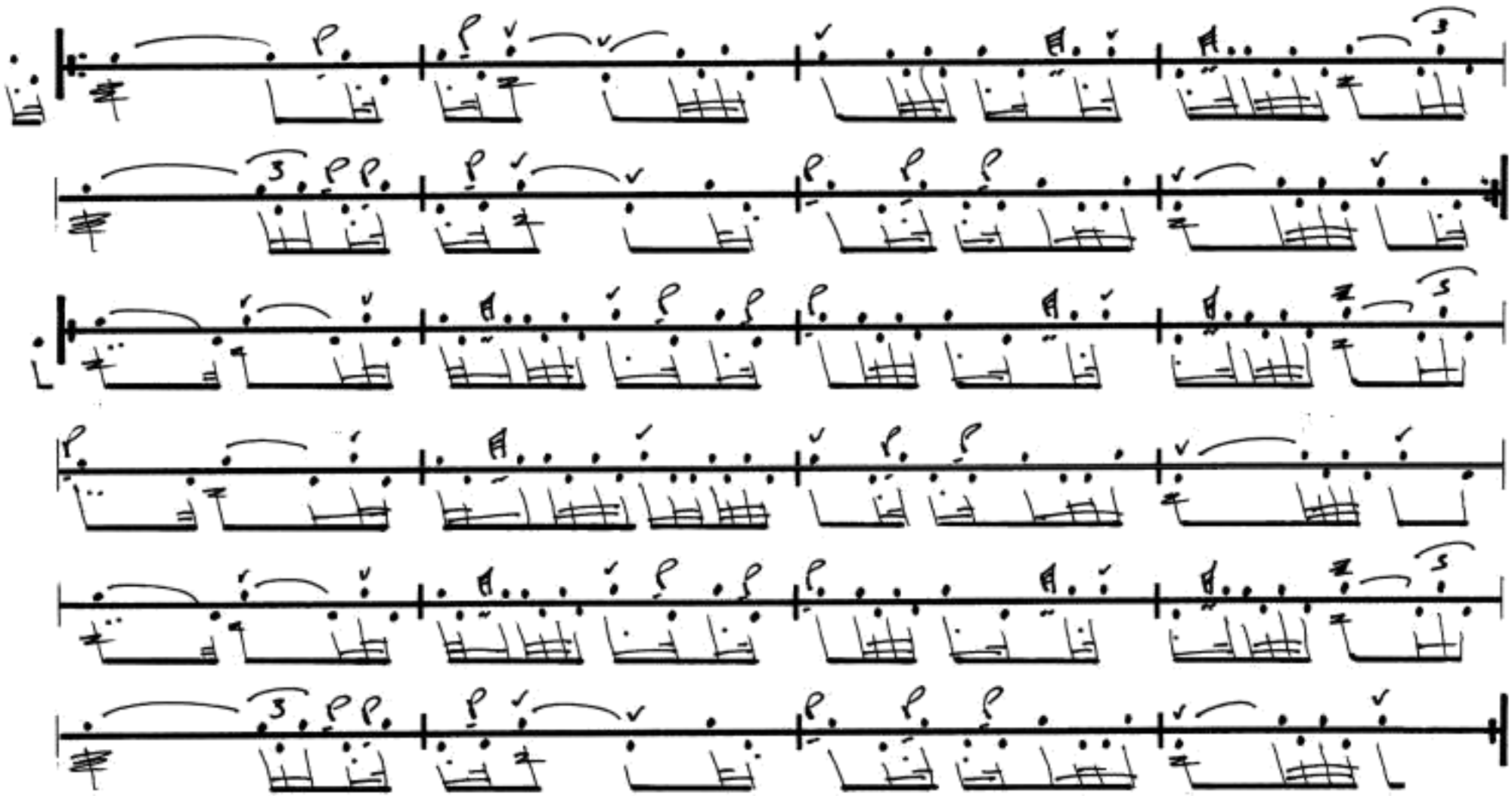


COMPOSED FOR: YOUGHAL PIPE BAND 2019.

2/4 MARCH

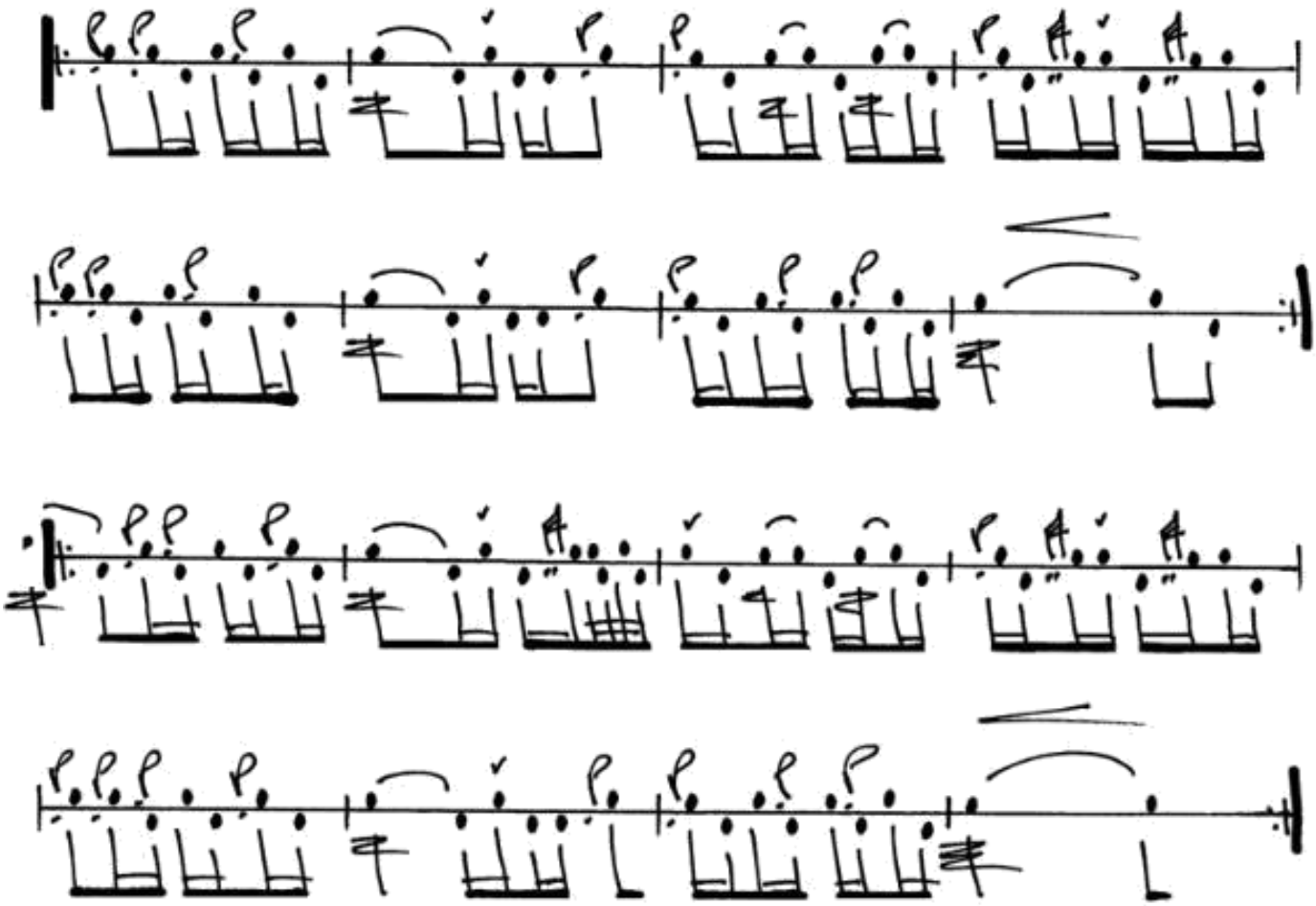
"ATHOLL & BREADALBANE GATHERING"

STEVEN McWHIRTER



RE ARRANGED BY
AIDAN McCARTHY
2016

HORNPIPE "SANDY'S NEW CHANTER" AIDAN McCARTHY 2020



COMPOSED FOR
YOUGHAL PIPE BAND
2020

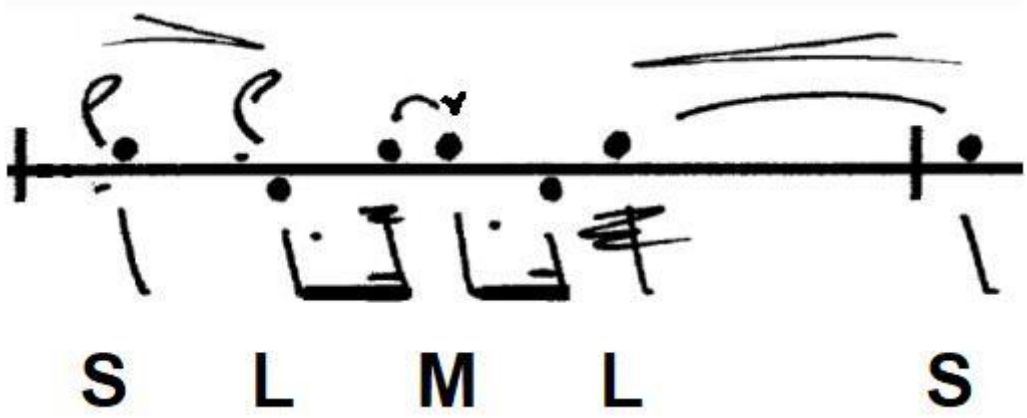
Strathpeys:

- Marches, reels and hornpipes typically have an average **Beats Per Minute (BPM)** of between about 70-85BPM.
- Strathspeys can be anything from **100-120BPM**.
- The BPMs given here are just examples. Every band has its own comfort/musical zone.
- Strathspeys have 4 beats per bar.

Idiom:

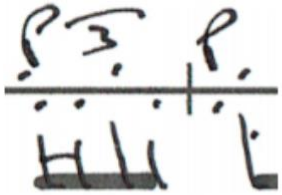
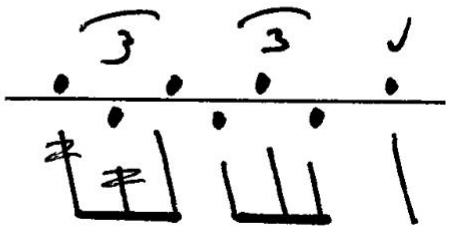
- A tunes idiom refers to the **style, phrase and feel** of the tune.
- Different tune types require different **idiomatic phrasing.**
- Strathspeys are among the most difficult idioms to execute.
- The idiom of a strathspey is ***Strong, Light, Medium, Light***. A different emphasis for each beat in the bar.

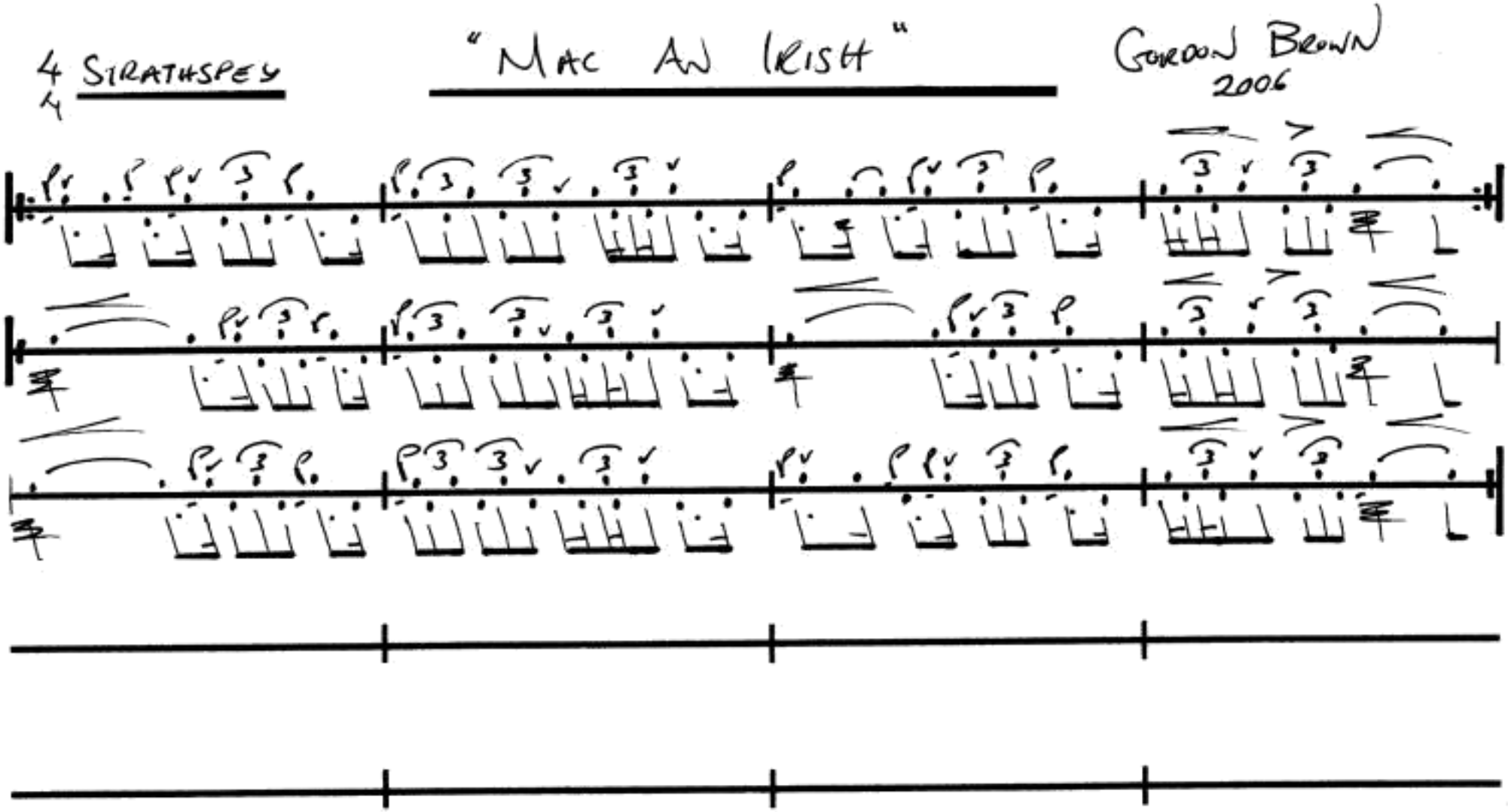
Sample Strathspey Phrase:

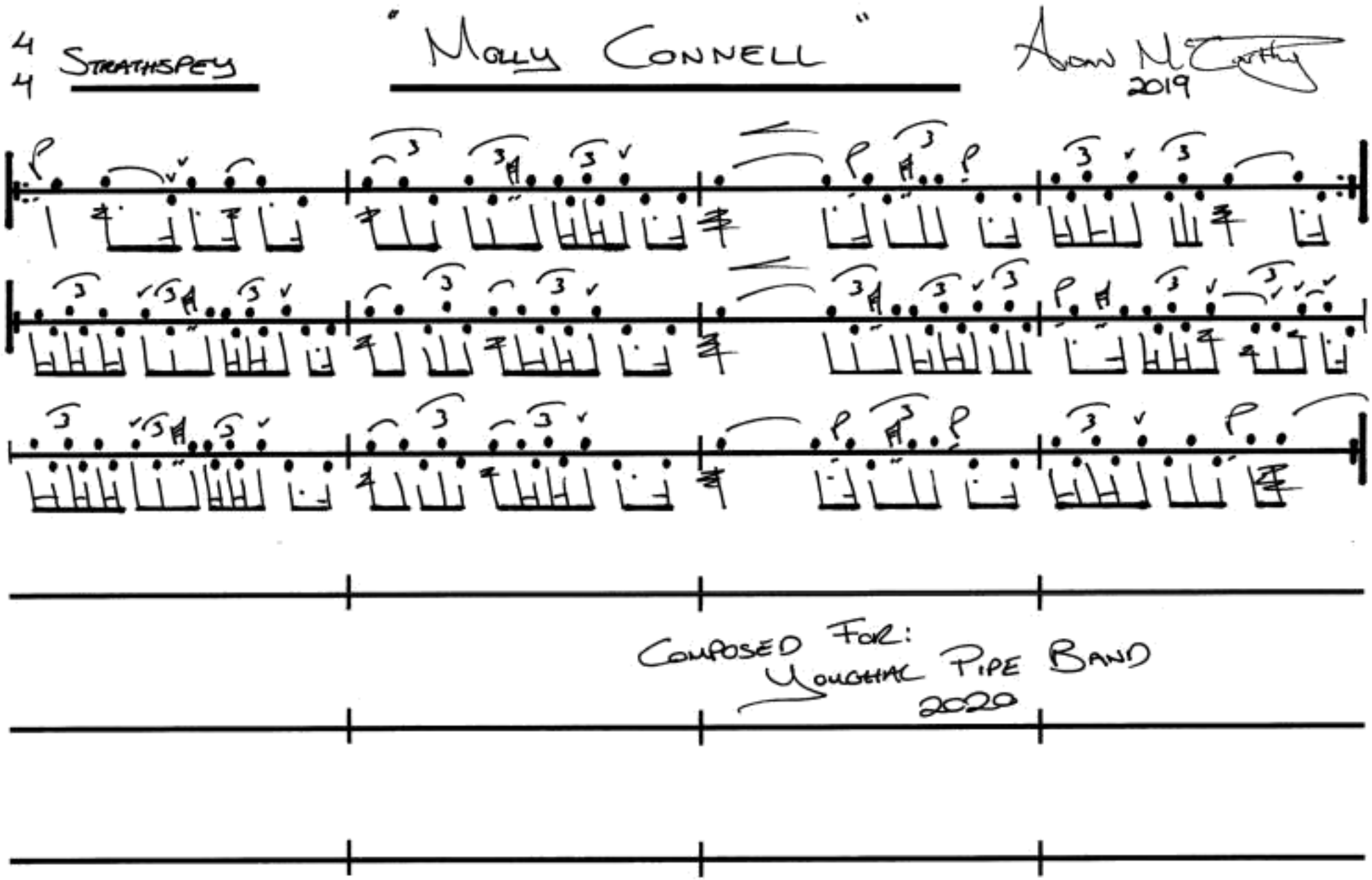


The letters above represent the ***Strong, Light, Medium, Light*** idiom needed for strathspey. They also show where the beat is.

Strathspey Movements/Rudiments:

Movement	Description
Five	In a strathspey, a 5 is written with a triplet. It is tap, triplet, tap. This is because of the difference in rhythm and the different interval between notes due to the quicker tempo. However, it is **essentially played the same**, only slight differences.
Drag Tap Flam	A common movement in strathspeys. Played with the **sound of a triplet**. Evenly spaced apart.
Triple Stroke Roll	Because of the tempo/idiom difference of strathspey. This roll is played as a **9-stroke roll**.
Flam tap triplet movement 	Common strathspey movement. Played quick.
5 stroke roll-five movement	


4/4 STRATHSPEY
"MAC AN IRISH"
GORDON BROWN
2006


4/4 STRATHSPEY
"MOLLY CONNELL"
ADAM N. CROTHERS
2019
COMPOSED FOR:
YOUGHAL PIPE BAND
2020

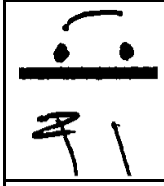
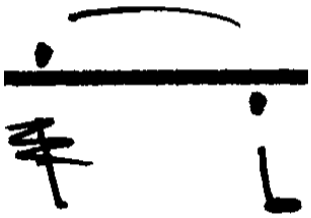
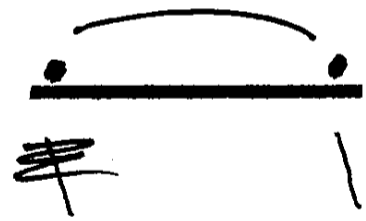
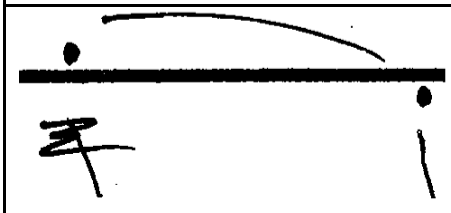
Jigs:

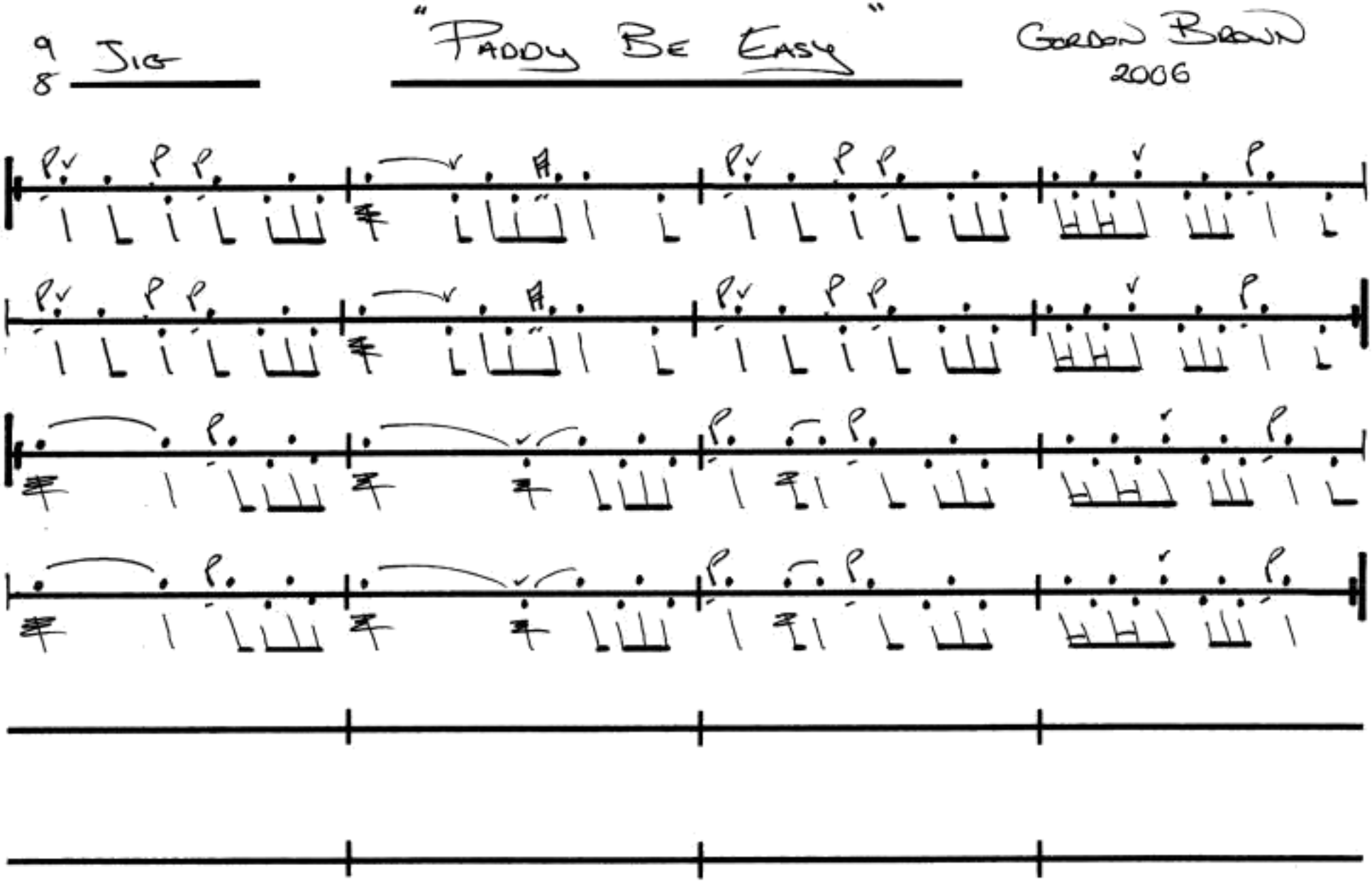
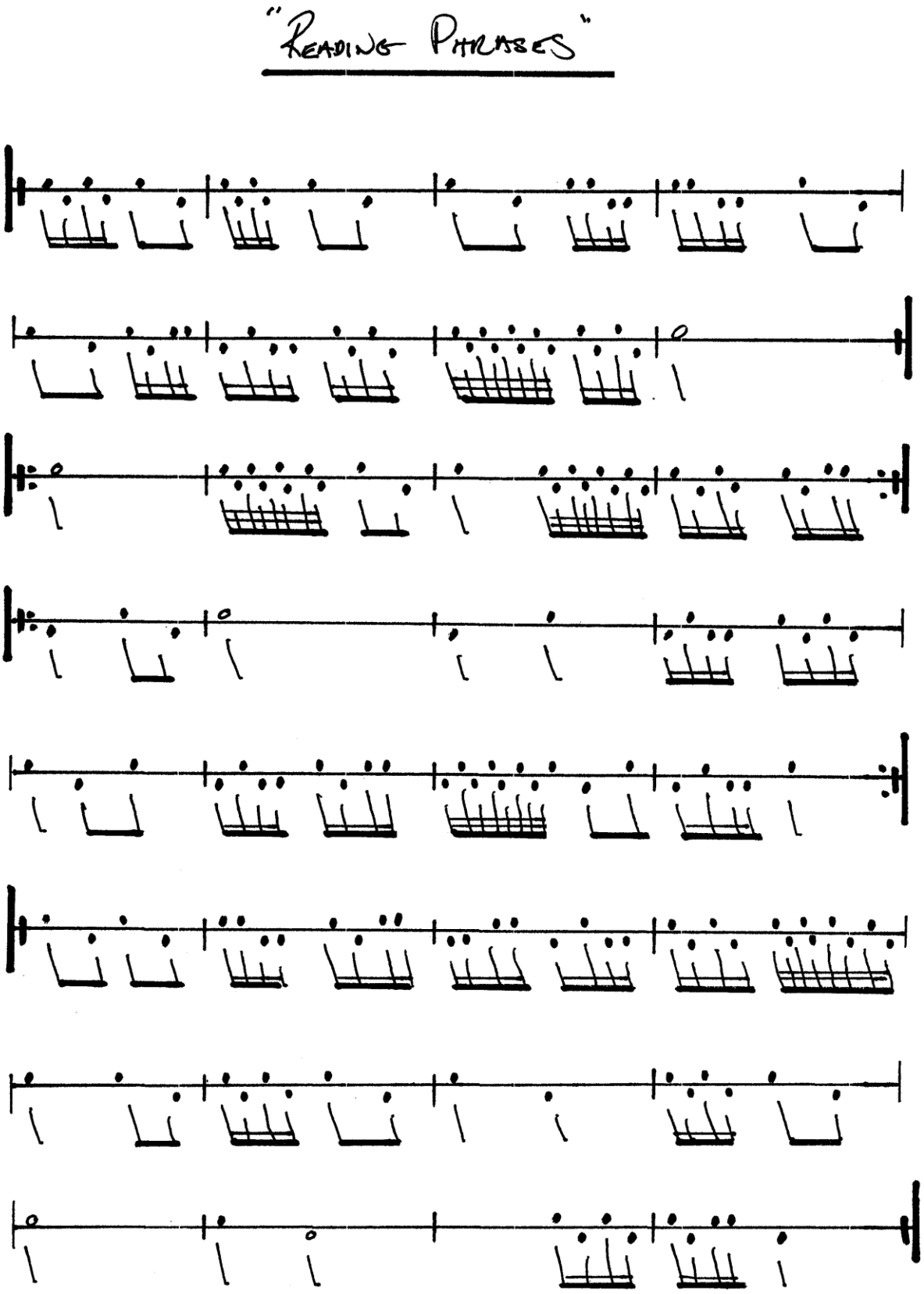
- Jigs are played around the same tempo as strathspeys.
- However, jigs are played straighter and don't have such a complex idiom.
- The idiom for Jigs is **Strong, Light**, Strong, light.
- **Different Jig time signatures** have **different beats per bar.**

6/8	9/8	12/8
2 beats per bar	3 beats per bar.	4 beats per bar

- Jigs have **no Dots & Cuts.**

Jig Rolls:

As Written	Roll Value
	**5 Stroke.** Double stroked roll.
	**7 Stroke.** Triple stroked roll with **1/8 note finish.**
	**9 Stroke.** Triple stroked roll. 1/4 note finish on same hand as start. Same as strathspey.
	**11 Stroke.** Triple stroke roll. 1/4 note finish on opposite hand to start.


9/8 Jig
"Paddy Be Easy"
Gordon Brown
2006

Extra Reading Exercises