

## Snare All State 2016

I've just returned from Scotland so, "Hello Outlanders", this is Professor Alan Shinn from Texas Tech University. The snare drum etude this year comes from *Advanced Snare Drum Studies* by Mitchell Peters and is published by Mitchell Peters. It is on pages 46 and 47 and is number 23. I chose eighth note = 206 for my performance while my practice tempo is eighth note = 176 which works to promote a consistent and similar muscle memory. The only errata involve measure 83 and you should start the crescendo at the beginning of that measure.

Practice with a metronome set for eighth notes as this is an etude where the eighth note is constant like going from a 4/8 meter to a 3/8 meter. Use a 16<sup>th</sup> note skeletal rhythm as your roll base. Although it is suggested in the TMEA literature that you play the drags and ruffs open, many would interpret the drags as concert drags and thus play them closed. Regardless, either way should work if you don't measure them. I would suggest an alternate sticking for the 4-stroke ruffs. Keep the grace notes low and soft for both the drags and ruffs.

Use a right hand lead sticking for the bulk of this etude. Consecutive flams may be alternated or played on the same hand. I think it is more consistent sounding to play the consecutive flams on the same hand. If you stay with a lead sticking concept, then in measures 27-31, you will have some left hand flams. Make sure they sound as good as your right hand flams. Read ahead in measures 31, 36 and 42, preparing your self mentally and physically for the 4-stroke ruffs. Start them low or at the drum. Play all 32<sup>nd</sup> note passages as alternated single strokes. I recommend the following sticking for measures 70 and 73: RLR L RLR L |.

The most difficult rhythms are those involving 16<sup>th</sup> note triplets and their rests. Make sure the rests get their full value. Practice slowly at first, working your way up to your performance tempo.

Pay close attention to the dynamics as a lot of contrast is called for in this etude.

I enjoyed practicing this on my drum set by adding a bass drum part. Try playing the bass drum using quarter notes for the 2/4 bars and either 2 dotted 8<sup>th</sup> notes or 3 8<sup>th</sup> notes for the 3/8 bars. I had so much fun practicing this way, I may play this at my gig on Thursday!

Ok, now repeat after me, "Showbiz is my life"!!