

### **Important concepts with Flams**

- *Grace notes are more FELT than HEARD!*
- *Grace notes are an ornamentation that lead us to a primary stroke.*
- *There are various interpretations of flams but I have found it best to start with the strokes being played simultaneously and open the interpretation after mastery.*

### **Flams – Introduction (6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Early 7<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

Level 1 – Coordination of sticks moving in parallel motion, Timing and consistency of stroke.

Double Stop Introduction – Strokes are played simultaneously in mirror image through the following sequence:

1. Forte (Full Strokes)
2. Mezzo Forte (Full Strokes)
3. Mezzo Piano (Full Strokes)
4. Piano (taps)

Level 2 – Coordination and timing of double stops at different dynamics. The Tap (grace note) hand should remain at tap height and be more felt than heard.

Double Stop Manipulation through the following sequence.

1. Left Hand = Piano / Right Hand = Piano
2. Left Hand = Piano / Right Hand = Mezzo Piano
3. Left Hand = Piano / Right Hand = Mezzo Forte
4. Left Hand = Piano / Right Hand = Forte
5. Back down the sequence to Piano

Go back through the sequence making the right hand the constant and the Left hand the variable.

Level 3 – Connecting the sequences and manipulations

Right hand takes a full measure to crescendo to each dynamic and play that dynamic for another measure. All the way up to Forte and all the way back down to Piano for each hand.

### **2-Height Control / Alternating Flams (7<sup>th</sup> Grade – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

Learn Tap – Accent Exercise

Put grace notes on all accented notes

1. Right Hand = Down Stroke – Up Stroke
2. Left Hand = Up Stroke – Down Stroke

### **Fake the Primary Stroke (Fake Flams/Fakies) (Late 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Early High School)**

Focus the student's awareness to the grace note touch and feel. Primary Stroke control and timing (*Remember more felt than heard*)

Play 4 slow alternating flams - - - > Play 4 Fake Flams (Repeat)

Play 4 Flam Accents - - - > Play 4 Fakie Flam Accents