

EMBELLISHMENTS

THE FLAM

Flams can be played either "closed" (with the grace note played very close to the principal note) or "open" (with the grace note and principal note well separated). The performer must use his own musical judgment as to which type of flam to employ in each musical situation. Usually the "open" flam is used in music of a martial character, and on deep drums with slow response: e.g., field drum, tenor drum. In most other situations the "closed" flam is employed.

Tempo can also be a determining factor.

Practice the following exercises both ways.

FLAM AND ONE TAP

The exercises are written on six staves in 4/4 time. The first staff includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature of 4. The exercises consist of various rhythmic patterns using eighth and sixteenth notes, often grouped in triplets (indicated by a '3' over a slur) or sextuplets (indicated by a '6' over a slur). The first staff also includes the notation 'R R R R' and 'R L R L' below the first four measures, indicating right and left hand patterns. The exercises progress in complexity, with some measures containing multiple slurs and triplet markings.

FLAM AND TWO TAPS

Five staves of musical notation for the 'FLAM AND TWO TAPS' exercise. The notation is in 6/8 time and features a variety of rhythmic patterns including eighth notes, sixteenth notes, and rests, with repeat signs indicating sections to be repeated.

FLAM AND THREE (OR MORE) TAPS

Five staves of musical notation for the 'FLAM AND THREE (OR MORE) TAPS' exercise. This section includes dynamic markings such as *mf*, *p*, *cresc.*, *f*, *mp*, and *ff*. It also features articulation marks like accents (>) and slurs over groups of notes. Specific rhythmic patterns are highlighted with brackets and numbers: a triplet of eighth notes (3), a triplet of sixteenth notes (3), and a sextuplet of sixteenth notes (6). The notation includes repeat signs and slurs indicating phrasing and dynamics.

