Understanding the Drummer’s Role in Music

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Technical Communication in Computer Science

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Outline

We will discuss...

- Components of a drum set
- Time signatures
- Drum interactions
- Two examples
Components of the Drum Kit

Drums
1) bass drum
2) snare drum
3) tom tom
4) floor tom

Cymbals
a) ride cymb
b) high-hat
c) crash cymb

Hardware
thrown, drum sticks
high-hat and cymbal stands
base drum pedal, etc.
Divide a circle into $k$ equal parts.
Divide a circle into 8 equal parts.
Divide a circle into $k$ equal parts.
Odd Meter

Divide a circle into 7 equal parts.
A few ideas...

- technical drumming when other instruments hold back
- simple drumming when other instruments are technical
- unison, multiple instruments making identical emphasis
- volume, drums get louder with other instruments.

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Further Study: Drum Appreciation

How to learn more about drumming.

- Read *Modern Drummer*, a drumming publication.
- Read drummer biographies and interviews.
- See live music, talk to the drummer and ask questions!
Further Study: Music Appreciation

How to learn more about music in general.

- Read liner notes of classical and jazz albums.
- Read interviews in magazines, e.g. *Downbeat, Spin*.
- Watch Ken Burns, Jazz documentary.
- See live music.
- Talk to musicians.
- Learn to play an instrument.
- Listen, listen, listen!