
Timing and Feel ... What is that?!?

By Jacquie Troy

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Groove is something that is not taught to today's drummers. Although it should be considered one of the basic fundamental rudiments, it is not. Most people don't have a clue what it is exactly or how to do it. Groove cannot really be taught to someone, it is a natural occurring internal feeling.

Groove goes deeper than just the basic beat. It is almost as if one beat is a pocket. The deeper inside the pocket you go, the groovier you get.

As I listen to today's drummers, I find most performances lacking in groove. Drummers today are taught that the key to being a top notch drummer is to be able to play everything under the sun at high speeds. There is no attention to playing musically or under control. It seems as though sticks are thrown into beginners hands and they are taught tunes right away. Fundamentals are pushed aside and tunes are focussed on. No wonder the up and coming drummers are suffering from carpal tunnel, tendonitis and what have you.

When I think of groove, I think of Maceo Parker. He was one of the first musicians I listened to, to get the concept of groove. This guy knows how to make the music talk to you and make you feel something. He makes you move!

Not many people know about groove. Its not taught to musicians like basic rudiments are. Someone is groovy because it's a natural occurring internal pulse that comes out when playing music. Groove is a big concept.

People try to force themselves to play groovy - that's just no the way to go about it. You need to sit back and relax - let yourself be sunk into the music. Let everything come out natually. By doing just that, the music that you play becomes inviting to the listener and they too become absorbed into your musical world.

Groove doesn't happen when forced. The music comes across as just that. A groovy musician will have the music flowing and smooth and with a pulse that you are able to feel. If the music is groovy, it should make you move. The beat/pulse should be deep enough and irresistible that you can feel it within yourself. You can't help but move with the music! It makes you happy and wanting more. Maceo Parker does that for me! Maceo Parker can be in my kitchen anytime...

Source: <http://www.canadianstandard.ca/wtsi/timefeel>

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