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Introduction

Success, real success, in any endeavor demands more from an individual than most people are willing to offer—not more than they are capable of offering.

— James Roche

Welcome to *The Commandments of the Half-Time Shuffle*. This book represents a vision I have held deep in my heart for over two decades, so it brings me great joy to see this one-of-a-kind method book come to life! My specific goal with this book is to give you the practical methodology to delve into the mastery of the half-time shuffle. If you choose to master this wonderfully unique feel, you will find that its governing rhythmic principles will enable you to play a wide variety of other grooves that are equally infectious and useful.

All rhythms and grooves are cousins or distant relatives of other rhythms and grooves. So the more you really develop one, the easier it is to develop others. In the same way that a standard college class credit would transfer to another school, many of the rhythmic principles here will transfer equally as well.

This book is broken down into six major sections. Each of them prepares you for the next more challenging set of independence exercises and grooves. If you make the commitment to work through each section, you will inevitably come out with greater control and mastery over the language itself.

No matter what your current skill level happens to be, I believe that working through this book will benefit any drummer who takes on the challenge. Both the novice and pro alike will find it rewarding and certainly worth the effort it will take to proficiently master all the patterns.

Taking first things first often reduces the most complex human problem to a manageable proportion.

— Dwight D. Eisenhower

As with any groove, there is almost an endless array of combinations one could develop. Those presented here are merely the conceptual ideas I have found helpful as well as very applicable to a variety of usable grooves that emphasize the swung triplet feel. Whether you are playing blues, hip-hop, or jazz, this material will only enhance your ability to execute those feels at a much higher level. Once you have mastered these grooves, your goal should be to exercise your own creativity and take this groove to new and uncharted territory.

At this time, I'd like to give a shout-out to my partner Dustin Ransom who facilitated all of the transcriptions and notation throughout this book and did an amazing job, if I say so myself! Both he and I have gone to great lengths to bring to you the most in-depth and thorough method book ever written on the subject of the half-time shuffle. An incredible amount of hard work, love, and passion has gone into this project. It is our hope that you enjoy delving into this incredible groove and the music that best represents it, as much as we have enjoyed bringing it to you.

Music moves us, and we know not why; we feel the tears, but cannot trace their source. Is it the language of some other state, born of its memory? For what can wake the soul's strong instinct of another world, like music?

— Letitia Elizabeth Landon
