

Kyle Forsthoff

OK class, turn in your books to the section on The Chieftains. I finished listening through all my Chieftains and Celtoiri Chualann stuff, all 21 CDs worth, and here's what I found out about playing on the rim: Rim playing only shows up on one track on 5 records by CC, assumably played by Sean O'Riada. Dave Fallon didn't play on the rim on Chieftains 1, but you can still hear the jingles in his drum, so he's still cool. Peadar Mercier only used the rim on one track in the 4 albums he played on. Kevin Conneff, all over the place, in various contexts, from Chieftains 6 on down. I put a screenshot of my playlist down here, you can download that and use that to collate your own collections if you wish, it's all chronological. pdf of some transcriptions up there ^ in the usual place. The numbers on the pdf correspond to the track numbers on the list, so you can see which technique or lick gets used where. The coolest thing I think I heard is still the lick in No 9 with the rim shot on the first note of a triplet, and it's fun to play and work on. Certainly the thing Kevin would be most well-known for as far as the rim goes and shows up the most is all the 6/8 backbeat stuff on page 2. It shows up in one way or another on 15 of the 23 tracks he plays rim on. An interesting thing that I never noticed before this and that I haven't heard anyone else do is the couple of tracks where he will be playing some reel rhythm on the drum, and then play the rim on the last quarter note (or crochet for ya'll over the pond) of the phrase, usually before a new instrument comes in. Kinda cool. As far as the duple-time backbeat stuff that we normally associate with Johnny, Tommy, Junior, etc, Kevin only does it on 4 tracks. Interesting, and telling, especially since I don't think I've heard anyone else do the whole 6/8 backbeat thing, it's like it's his own little niche thing. In the Cotton-eyed Joe track from Chieftains 10, Kevin does play several phrases entirely on the rim, which is certainly noteworthy. I didn't transcribe any of it though cause it would take too much space and the recording quality makes it tough to hear all the subtle details with any certainty. So there ya have it. I've got a whole playlist of Johnny playing on the rim and another with some stuff by Tommy, Junior, and Mossie, so I'll get around to transcribing some of that stuff soon. Cheers!

1	✓ Neilí (Seán Ó Sé)	1:52	Sean O'Riada and Ceoltoiri Chualann	Seoda An Riadaigh
2	✓ An Gheagus An Gra Geal (The Goose & Bright Love)	3:23	The Chieftains	The Chieftains 5
3	✓ Away With Ye	4:49	The Chieftains	The Chieftains 6 - Bonaparte's Retreat
4	✓ Round the House and Mind the Dresser	3:28	The Chieftains	The Chieftains 6 - Bonaparte's Retreat
5	✓ The Morning Dew	3:32	The Chieftains	The Chieftains Live!
6	✓ Kerry Slides	3:53	The Chieftains	The Chieftains Live!
7	✓ Round The House And Mind The Dresser	2:54	The Chieftains	The Chieftains Live!
8	✓ Solos: Caitlin Triall/For the Sakes of Old Decency/etc.	13:51	The Chieftains	The Chieftains Live!
9	✓ Ril Mhor	3:23	The Chieftains	The Chieftains Live!
10	✓ Oh! The Breeches Full Of Stitches	4:20	The Chieftains	The Chieftains 7
11	✓ The Session	4:29	The Chieftains	The Chieftains 8
12	✓ Seán Sa Cheo	2:25	The Chieftains	The Chieftains 8
13	✓ Sea Image	6:10	The Chieftains	The Chieftains 8
14	✓ The Job of Journeywork	4:15	The Chieftains	The Chieftains 8
15	✓ Boil The Breakfast Early	3:57	The Chieftains	The Chieftains 9- Boil The Breakfast Early
16	✓ Chase Around The Windmill	5:02	The Chieftains	The Chieftains 9- Boil The Breakfast Early
17	✓ Pride of Pimlico	2:15	The Chieftains	The Chieftains 10- Cotton-eyed Joe
18	✓ An Faire (The Gold Ring)	3:45	The Chieftains	The Chieftains 10- Cotton-eyed Joe
19	✓ Cotton Eyed Joe	2:20	The Chieftains	The Chieftains 10- Cotton-eyed Joe
20	✓ Galician Overture	11:01	The Chieftains	Santiago
21	✓ Treasure Cave	2:16	The Chieftains	Film Cuts
22	✓ The Grey Fox: Main Theme	6:04	The Chieftains	Film Cuts
23	✓ Ireland Moving - Train Sequence (From "Ireland Moving")	1:45	The Chieftains	Film Cuts
24	✓ Lots Of Drops Of Brandy	3:44	The Chieftains	Water From The Well
25	✓ Within A Mile Of Dublin/The Old Blackthorn	2:47	The Chieftains	Water From The Well

Kyle Forsthoff Any time you play a rim on the 4th 8th-note, it would be the backbeat, especially as you go faster. Here's one from Chieftains Live!: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkkI-KrpXgM>

Kyle Forsthoff Similarly, in duple-time, anytime you play the rim on the 3rd 8th-note in a group of 4, it would be the backbeat, so 2 per bar in a reel but only 1 in a polka. In 4/4, normally beats 2 and 4 (any rock/pop tune on earth) or beat 3 to get a half-time feel. It's a drumset thing... Could also be applied to a Waltz on the 3rd beat (5th 8th-note) or a slip jig on the third beat (7th 8th-note), although it doesn't happen that often in ITM in those meters. It's basically a way of splitting the meter (or half of the meter) into low and high halves. Obviously doesn't have to be played on the rim (see Colm, Eamon, JJK, etc.), but it is with what I'm talking about here.

Rolf Wagels The drama starts in 4/4, because what the rock drummers count is different from what the Irish trad drummer counts .

According to my limited knowledge of other than bodhran drumming, a backbeat in rock would be kick drum on '1' and '3' and snare on '2' and '4'.

Same pattern in my book would be kick on '1' and snare on '3'. Due to the fact that we have eight bars in the part of a tune and count these eight bars as 1+2+3+4+. This has always been a great source of confusion when talking to musicians outside trad or teaching percussionists...

Kyle Forsthoff Rolf, I think it depends on how you hold your drum. If you hold it under your arm and muffle with your body at all, you have to move the drum out in order to play downs on the rim. You can see this in Eamon's playing all the time, how he rolls the drum out just for the rim strokes, which you well know. Although, you're so tall, that on your drum you may be fine, but for me, if I want to play on the down without moving the drum I'm more like to whack myself in the face, as high as I have to get the tipper. I have been trying to move to playing any duple time rim stuff up at the 12 o'clock position like the single-ended folks tend to do. But if I'm going old skool Johnny style, I still roll out and play at the 3-4 o'clock area (9-8 for you righty types). But to do that 6/8 backbeat, I play at about 7-8 (4-5 RH), and you don't have to move your hand at all.

Rolf Wagels Why not play the down rim shots on the front? I never understand all this moving the drum around stuff... I play them on the front or on the top for the down beats...

Kyle Forsthoff Mike, I don't know that playing the rim in 6/8 is more common, it's just more common for Kevin Conneff to do it. My recording collection certainly isn't "complete" by any means, but it's pretty sizable and across a pretty large swath of the historical record, and from what I'm looking at, it looks to be split pretty evenly between 6/8 stuff and reels. BY FAR the most prevalent players are Johnny and Kevin, with around 25 tracks a piece in my collection, nobody else has more than 3, and that's even including Junior and Tommy. Again, I don't have EVERY recorded example, probably by