

Book 1 Double Bass
ESSENTIAL
ELEMENTS

for Strings



A COMPREHENSIVE STRING METHOD

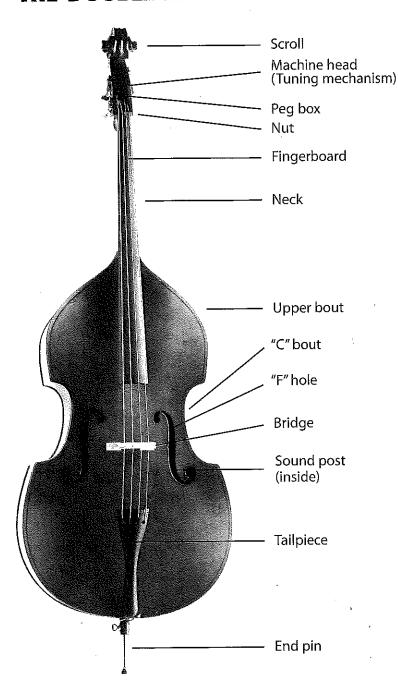
BY
MICHAEL ALLEN
ROBERT GILLESPIE
PAMELA TELLEJOHN HAYES

ARRANGEMENTS BY
JOHN HIGGINS





THE DOUBLE BASS



Take Special Care

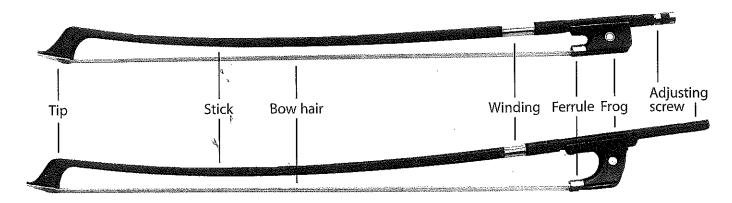
String instruments are delicate. Follow your teacher's guidelines in caring for your instrument, and it will last forever.

- Follow your teacher's instructions when removing the instrument from the case.
- Protect your instrument from heat, cold, and quick changes in temperature.
- Always wipe off the instrument with a soft dry cloth. Be sure to remove all fingerprints and rosin.

Accessories

- Rosin
- · Soft cloth
- Stool (optional)

THE BOW



HOLDING YOUR INSTRUMENT

The best way to learn to play your instrument is to practice one skill at a time. Repeat each step until you are comfortable demonstrating it for your teacher and classmates.

Holding The Double Bass (sitting)

Step 1 Remove the bow from the case and put it in a safe place. Open the case and remove the bass. Identify all parts of the bass.

Step 2 Adjust the length of the end pin so that the nut of the bass is near the top of your forehead when standing.

Step 3 Sit squarely on the front half of the stool with your right foot on the floor and your left foot on a rung of the stool. Place the end pin in front of your left foot about one arm's length away.

Step 4 Rotate the bass slightly to the right and lean the bass toward your body so that the upper bout rests against the left side of your stomach. Identify the letter names of each string: E (lowest pitch), A, D, G. Raise your right index finger over the strings and pluck them as directed by your teacher. Plucking the strings is called *pizzicato*, and is abbreviated *pizz*.



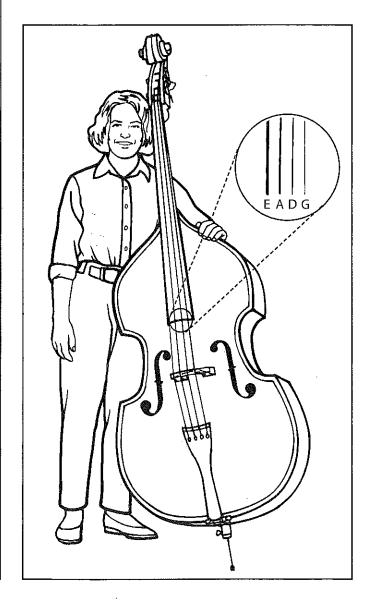
Holding The Double Bass (standing)

Step 1 Remove the bow from the case and put it in a safe place. Open the case and remove the bass. Identify all parts of the bass.

Step 2 Adjust the length of the end pin so that the nut of the bass is near the top of your forehead when standing.

Step 3 Place the end pin in front of your left foot about one arm's length away. Place your left foot slightly forward.

Step 4 Rotate the bass slightly to the right and lean the bass toward your body so that the upper bout rests against the left side of your stomach. Identify the letter names of each string: E (lowest pitch), A, D, G. Raise your right index finger over the strings and pluck them as directed by your teacher. Plucking the strings is called *pizzicato*, and is abbreviated *pizz*.



Quarter Note

= 1 Beat of Sound

Notes tell us how high or low to play, and how long to play.

Quarter Rest

🚶 = 1 Beat of Silence

Rests tell us to count silent beats.

Music Staff

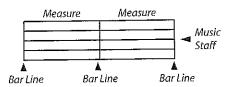
The music staff has 5 lines and 4 spaces.

Bar Lines

Bar lines divide the music staff into measures.

Measures

The measures on this page have four beats each.



1. TUNING TRACK Wait quietly for your teacher to tune your instrument.

2. LET'S PLAY "OPEN D"

Pizzicato (pizz.) - Pluck the strings



3. LET'S PLAY "OPEN A"



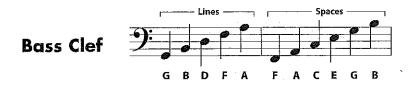
4. TWO'S A TEAM



5. AT PIERROT'S DOOR The melody is on your CD.







Clefs indicate a set of note names.

Time Signature (Meter)

4 4 beats per measure

4 J or 3 gets one beat

The **time signature** tells us how many beats are in each measure and what kind of note gets one beat.

Double Bar



A double bar indicates the end of a piece of music.

6. JUMPING JACKS *Identify the clef and time signature before playing.*



7. MIX 'EM UP



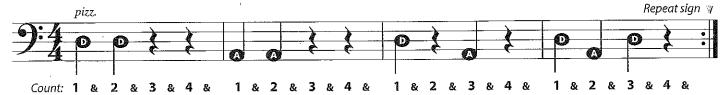
Repeat Sign :

Go back to the beginning and play the music again.

Counting

One beat = Tap toe down on the number and up on "&" Always count when playing or resting.

8. COUNT CAREFULLY Keep a steady beat when playing or resting.



9. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS QUIZ Write in the counting before you play.



THEOR

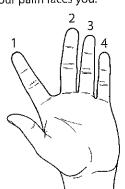
SHAPING THE LEFT HAND

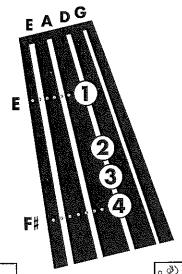
D STRING NOTES

Step 1 Shape your left hand as shown. Be certain your palm faces you.



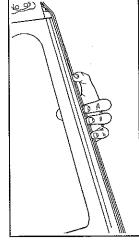
- 1 = 1st finger
- 2 = 2nd finger
- 3 = 3rd finger
- 4 = 4th finger



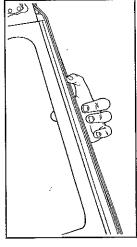


Step 2 Bring your left hand to the fingerboard. Place your fingers on the D string, keeping your hand shaped as shown. Be sure your thumb is behind the second finger and slightly bent.

is played with 4 fingers on the D string.



is played with 1 finger on the D string.



Listening Skills

Play what your teacher plays. Listen carefully.

10. LET'S READ "G" Start memorizing the note names.



HEORY

Sharp

A **sharp** raises the sound of notes and remains in effect for the entire measure.

Notes without sharps are called natural notes.

11. LET'S READ "F#" (F-sharp)



△ Play all F#'s. Sharps apply to the entire measure.



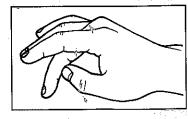


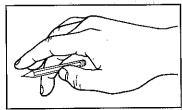
SHAPING THE RIGHT HAND

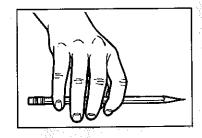
BOW BUILDER ONE

Pencil Hold

- **Step 1** Hold a pencil in your left hand about waist level.
- **Step 2** Place the tip of your right thumb between the first and second joints of your second finger.
- **Step 3** Place the pencil between your thumb and second finger, while keeping your thumb gently curved.
- **Step 4** The pencil should touch your first three fingers between the first and second joints, and touch the fourth finger at the first joint, as shown.
- **Step 5** Remove your left hand from the pencil. Keep your fingers relaxed. Practice shaping your hand on the pencil until it feels natural to you.









Practice BOW BUILDER ONE daily.

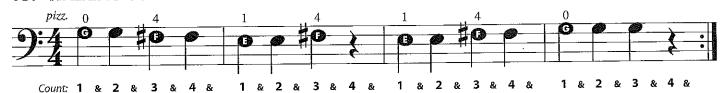
13. ON THE TRAIL *Say or sing the note names before you play.*



14. LET'S READ "E"



15. WALKING SONG



16. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS QUIZ Draw the missing symbols where they belong before you play:





Pencil Hold Exercises (French Bow Only)

I'm Outta Here

Wave good-bye while keeping your wrist relaxed.

Thumb Flexers

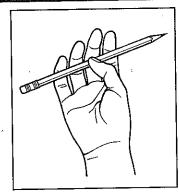
Flex your thumb in and out.

Finger Taps

Tap your first finger. Then tap your fourth finger.

Knuckle Turnovers

Turn your hand over and be sure your thumb knuckle is bent, as shown.



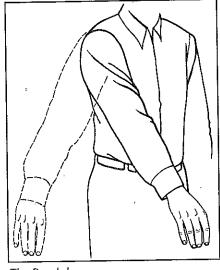
Knuckle Turnovers

BOW BUILDER THREE

Bowing Motions

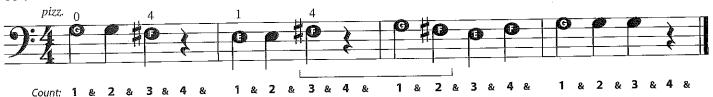
The Pendulum (French and German Bow)

Let your arm hang down to your side. While keeping your elbow straight, swing your arm back and forth like a pendulum.



The Pendulum

17. HOP SCOTCH



Folk songs have been an important part of cultures for centuries and have been passed on from generation to generation. Folk song melodies help define the sound of a culture or region. This folk song comes from the Slavic region of eastern Europe.



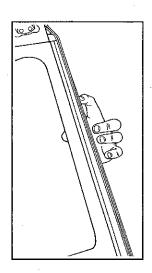


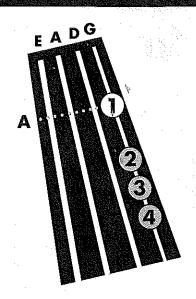






is played with 1 finger on the G string.

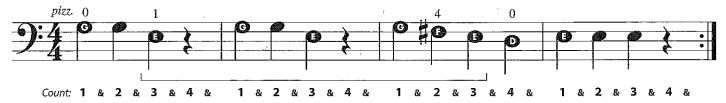




20. GOOD KING WENCESLAS



21. SEMINOLE CHANT



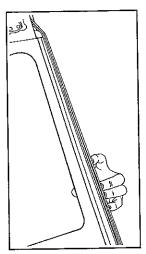
22. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS QUIZ - LIGHTLY ROW



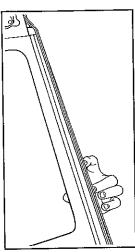


G STRING NOTES

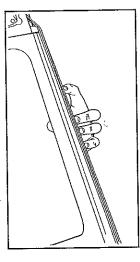
is played with 4 fingers on the G string in third position (III).

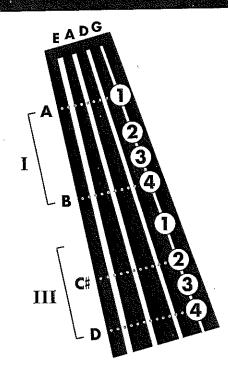


is played with 2 fingers on the G string in third position (III).



is played with
4 fingers on the
G string in first
position (I).



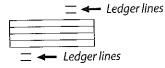


Listening Skills

Play what your teacher plays. Listen carefully.



Ledger Lines



Ledger lines extend the music staff higher or lower.

23. LET'S READ "D"



24. LET'S READ "C#" (C-sharp)



 $oxed{III}$ $oxed{\mathbb{A}}$ Play all C\(\psi's\). Sharps apply to the entire measure.



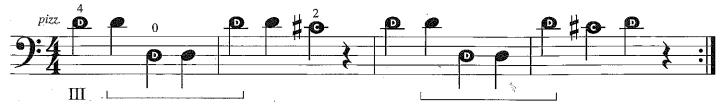


26. CARIBBEAN ISLAND



>

27. OLYMPIC HÌGH JUMP



28. LET'S READ "B"



Shifting Sliding your left hand smoothly and lightly to a new location on the fingerboard, indicated by a dash (–).

29. HALF WAY DOWN

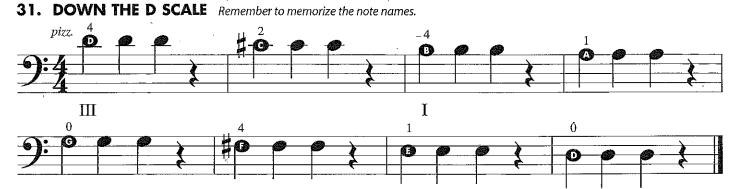




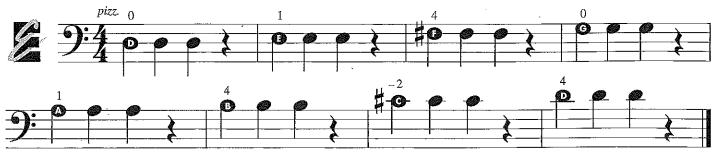
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Scale

A **scale** is a sequence of notes in ascending or descending order. Like a musical "ladder", each note is the next consecutive step of the scale. This is your D Scale. The first and last notes are both D.



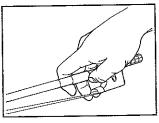
32. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS QUIZ - UP THE D SCALE

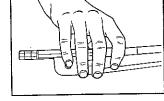


BOW BUILDER FOUR

On The Bow (French)

- **Step 1** Identify all parts of the bow (see page 2). Hold the bow in your left hand near the tip with the frog pointing to the right.
- **Step 2** Place the bow between your right thumb and second finger. The tip of your thumb will contact the stick next to the frog, and your second finger will extend to the ferrule.
- Step 3 Shape the remaining fingers on the bow stick as shown.
- **Step 4** Turn your right hand over, and be sure your thumb is curved.
- **Step 5** Hold the bow and repeat the exercises on page 8.



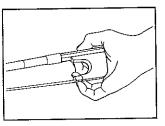


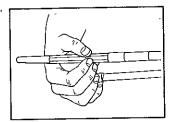
French Bow

French Bow

On The Bow (German)

- **Step 1** Identify all parts of the bow (see page 2). Hold the bow in your left hand near the tip with the frog pointing to the right.
- **Step 2** Place the frog in your right hand at the base joints of your fingers.
- **Step 3** Put your thumb on top of the bow while the tips of the first and second fingers touch the side of the stick and frog.
- **Step 4** Hook your fourth finger underneath the frog touching the ferrule. Allow the third finger to curve and relax.





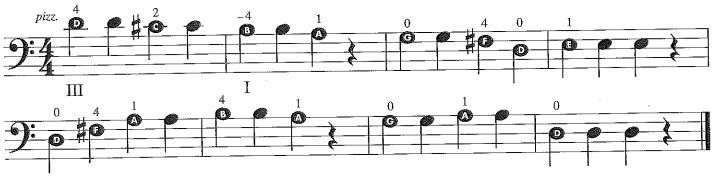
German Bow

German Bow

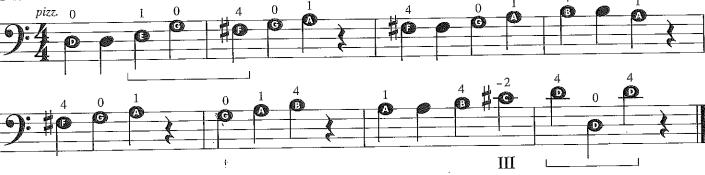


Alert Do not place your bow on the instrument until instructed to do so by your teacher.

33. SONG FOR CHRISTINE







35. ESSENTIAL CREATIVITY [↑] How many words can you create by drawing notes on the staff below?



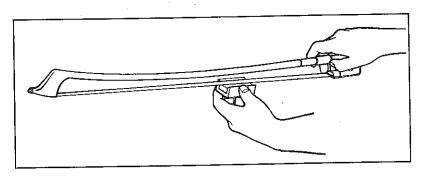


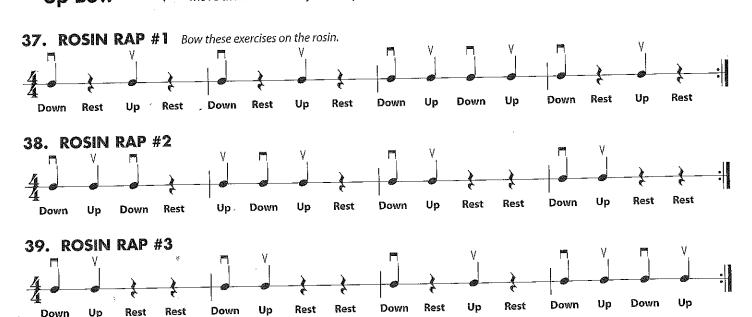
BOW BUILDER FIVE

Shadow Bowing

Shadow Bowing is bowing without the instrument.

- **Step 1** Tighten the bow hair as instructed by your teacher.
- **Step 2** Place the rosin in your left hand. Hold the bow in your right hand.
- **Step 3** Shadow bow by slowly moving the bow back and forth on the rosin. Be sure to move the bow, not the rosin.





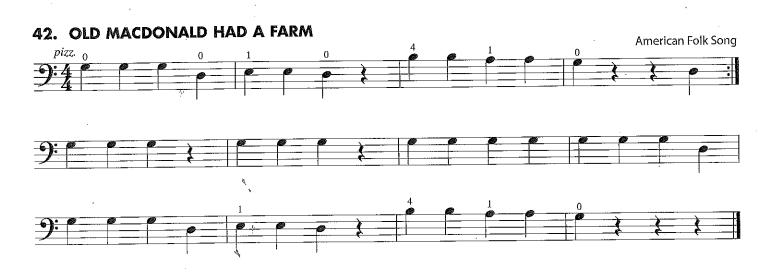
Review these notes. Write the letter names in the spaces below.



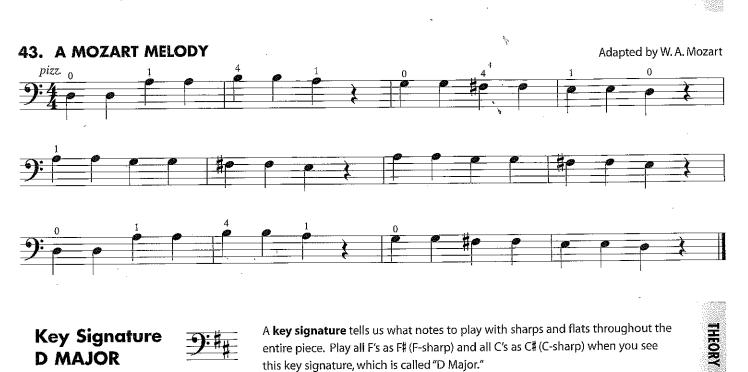
40. CAROLINA BREEZE

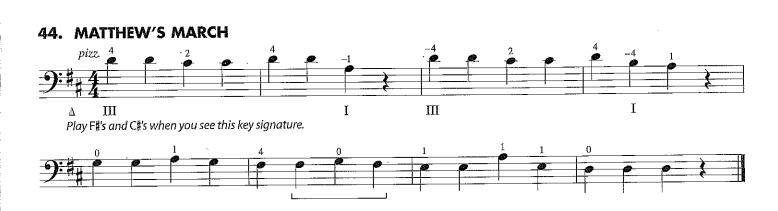




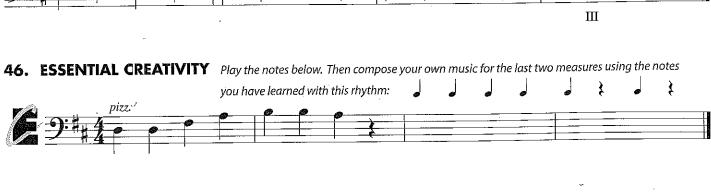


Austrian composer **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** (1756–1791) was a child prodigy who first performed in concert at age 6. He lived during the time of the American Revolution (1775–1783). Mozart's music is melodic and imaginative. He wrote hundreds of compositions, including a piano piece based on this familiar song.



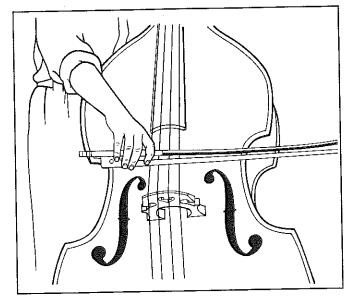






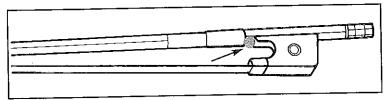
BOW BUILDER SIX

Let's Bow!



French Bow Hold

German Bow Hold

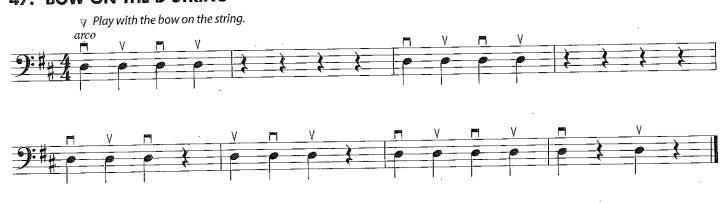


Thumb Placement (French)

Listening Skills

Play what your teacher plays. Listen carefully. Your tone should be smooth and even.

47. BOW ON THE D STRING





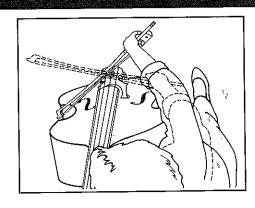


WORKOUTS

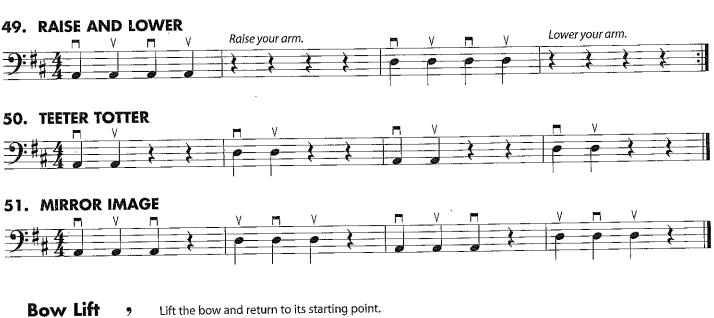
String Levels

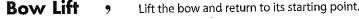
Your arm moves when bowing on different strings. Memorize these guidelines:

- Move your arm forward and up to to play higher-pitched strings.
- Move your arm back and down to play lower-pitched strings.



Raise arm = higher string Lower arm = lower string







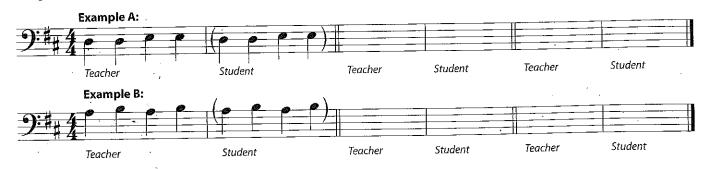
53. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS QUIZ - OLYMPIC CHALLENGE



BOW BUILDER SEVEN

Combining Both Hands

Using notes from the D major scale, echo what your teacher plays.



PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Congratulations! You are now ready to practice like an advanced player by combining left and right hand skills while reading music. When learning a new line of music, follow these steps for success:

- **Step 1** Tap your toe and say or sing the letter names.
- **Step 2** Play *pizz*. and say or sing the letter names.
- **Step 3** Shadow bow and say or sing the letter names.
- **Step 4** Bow and play as written.





55. BACK AND FORTH



56. DOWN AND UP



57. TRIBAL LAMENT



58. BOWING "D"

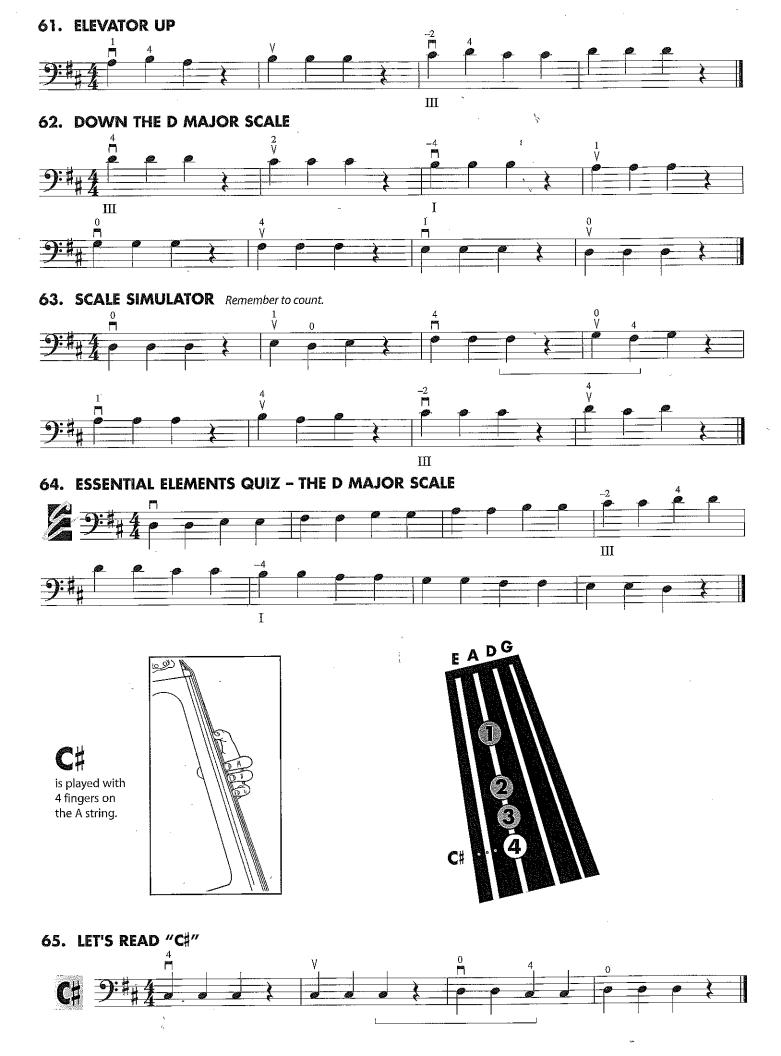


59. LITTLE STEPS



60. ELEVATOR DOWN



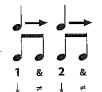




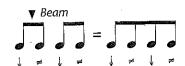
Eighth Notes



Each Eighth Note $= \frac{1}{2}$ Beat 2 Eighth Notes = 1 Beat

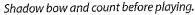


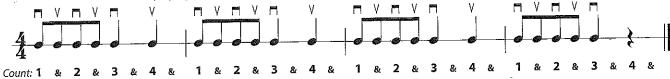
Two or more Eighth Notes have a beam across the stems.



Tap your toe down on the number and up on the "&".

66. RHYTHM RAP



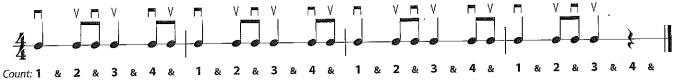


67. PEPPERONI PIZZA



68. RHYTHM RAP

Shadow bow and count before playing.







Tempo Markings

Tempo is the speed of music. Tempo markings are usually written above the staff, in Italian.

Allegro – Fast tempo

Moderato – Medium tempo

Andante – Slower, walking tempo

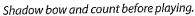
70. HOT CROSS BUNS

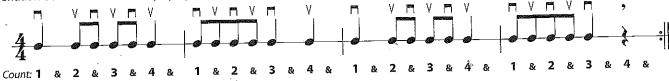


71. AU CLAIRE DE LA LUNE









73. BUCKEYE SALUTE



$rac{2}{4}$ Time Signature

2 beats per measure
Quarter note gets one beat

Conducting

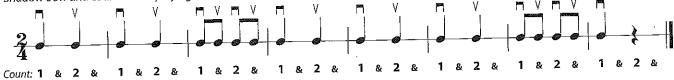
Practice conducting this two-beat pattern.



THEORY

74. RHYTHM RAP

Shadow bow and count before playing.



75. TWO BY TWO



1st & 2nd Endings

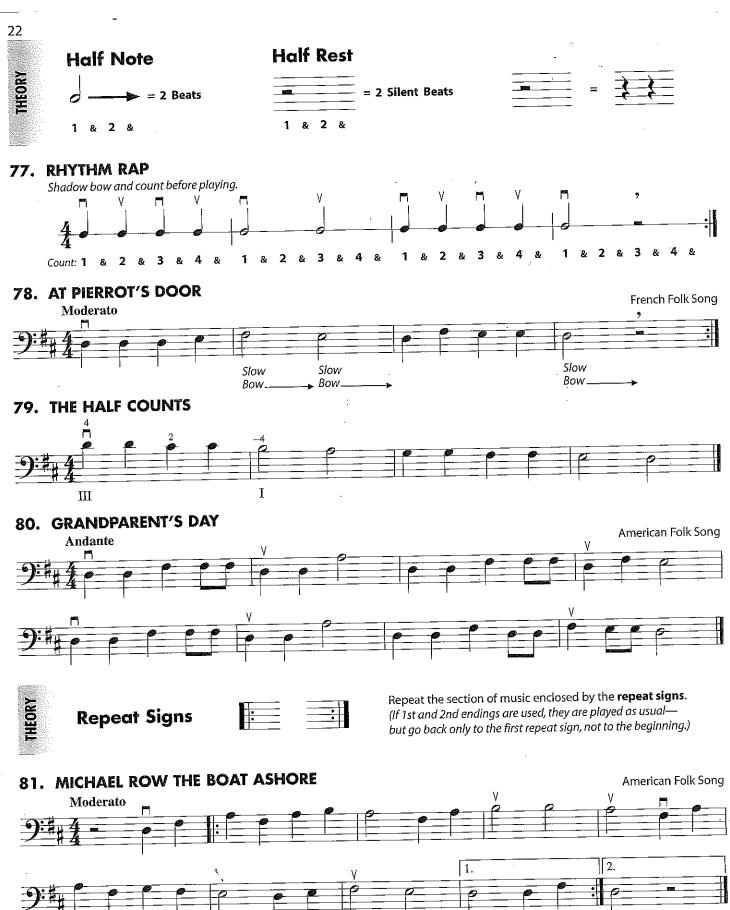


Play the 1st ending the 1st time through. Then, repeat the same section of music, skip the 1st ending, and play the 2nd ending.

THEORY

76. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS QUIZ - FOR PETE'S SAKE



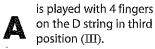


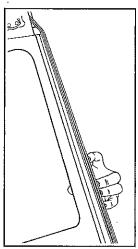


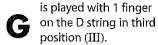
Pizz. this exercise with your left hand 4th finger. **82. TEXAS TWO-STRING** 4+=4th finger pizz.

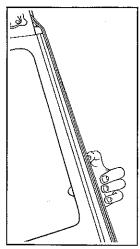


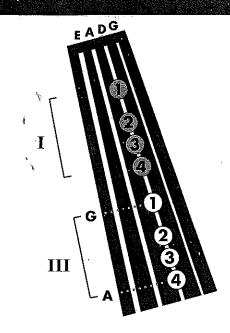












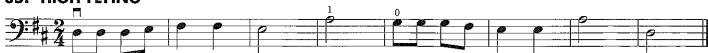
83. FOUR BY FOUR



84. 4TH FINGER MARATHON



85. HIGH FLYING



German composer **Ludwig van Beethoven** (1770–1827) was one of the world's greatest composers. He was completely deaf by 1802. Although he could not hear music like we do, he could "hear" it in his mind. The theme of his final *Symphony No. 9* is called "Ode To Joy," and was written to the text of a poem by Friedrich von Schiller. "Ode To Joy" was featured in concerts celebrating the reunification of Germany in 1990.

86. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS QUIZ - ODE TO JOY

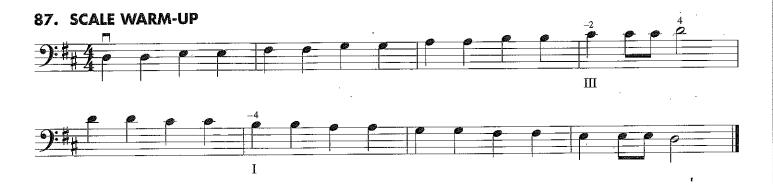


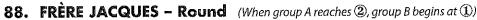
HISTORY

PERFORMANCE SPOTLIGHT



Good performers are on time with their instruments and music ready, dressed appropriately, and know their music well.









Chord, Harmony

Two or more pitches sounding at the same time form a **chord** or **harmony**. Throughout this book, $\mathbf{A} = \text{Melody and } \mathbf{B} = \text{Harmony}$.

89. BILE 'EM CABBAGE DOWN - Orchestra Arrangement





PERFORMANCE SPOTLIGHT

90. ENGLISH ROUND



91. LIGHTLY ROW - Orchestra Arrangement

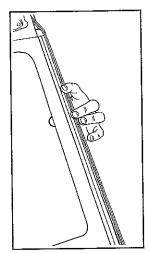




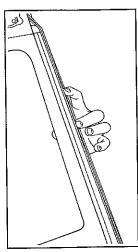
French composer **Jacques Offenbach** (1819–1880) was the originator of the **operetta** and played the cello. An **operetta** is a form of entertainment that combines several of the fine arts together: vocal and instrumental music, drama, dance, and visual arts. One of his most famous pieces is the "Can-Can" dance from *Orpheus And The Underworld*. This popular work was written in 1858, just three years before the start of the American Civil War (1861–1865).



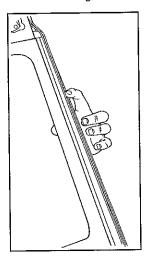
is played with 2 fingers on the E string.

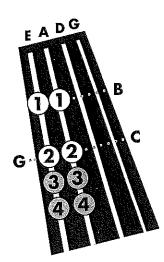


is played with 2 fingers on the A string.



is played with
1 finger on
the A string.





Listening Skills

Play what your teacher plays. Listen carefully.



Key Signature G MAJOR

9: #

Play all F's as F# (F-sharp) and all C's as C (C-natural).

93. LET'S READ "G"



△ Play F#'s and Cq's in this key signature.

94. LET'S READ "C" (C-natural)

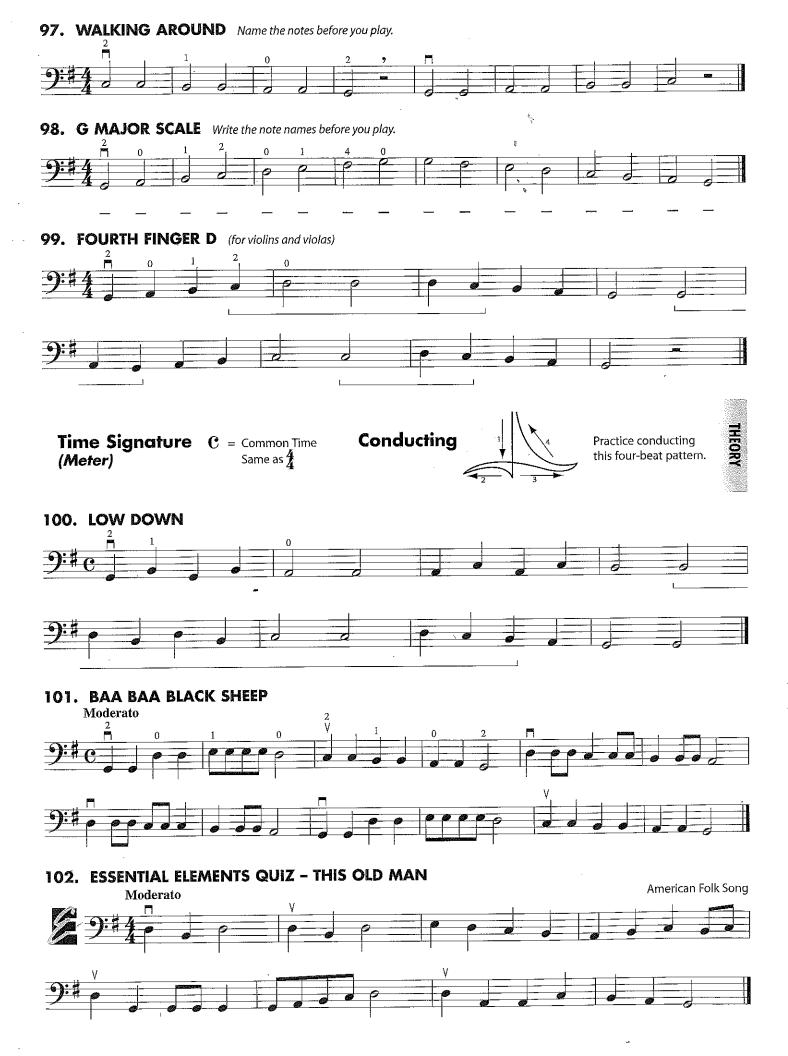


95. LET'S READ "B"

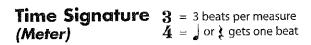


96. LET'S READ "A"

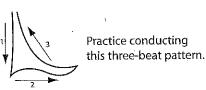


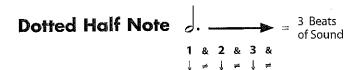


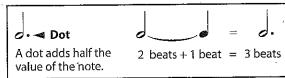




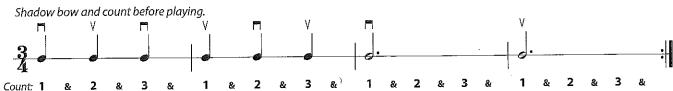












104. COUNTING THREES



105. D MAJOR SCALE IN THREES



New Position - 111/2 (Second and a half position – first finger on B.)

106. FRENCH FOLK SONG



107. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS QUIZ - SAILOR'S SONG







A note (or notes) that appears before the first full measure is called an **upbeat** (or **pickup**). The remaining beats are found in the last measure.

116. SONG FOR MARIA



HISTORY

Latin American music combines the folk music from South and Central America, the Caribbean Islands, African, Spanish, and Portuguese cultures. Melodies often feature a lively accompaniment by drums, maracas, and claves. Latin American styles have become part of jazz, classical, and rock music.

THEORY

D.C. al Fine

Play until you see the **D.C. al Fine**. Then go back to the beginning and play until you see **Fine** (fee'-nay). **D.C.** is the abbreviation for **Da Capo**, the Italian term for "return to the beginning." **Fine** is the Italian word for "the finish."

117. BANANA BOAT SONG





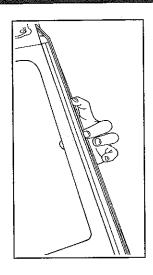


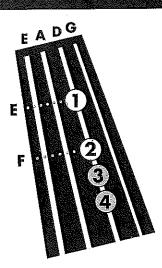


Far Eastern music comes from Malaysia, Indonesia, China and other areas. Historians believe the first orchestras, known as **gamelans**, existed in this region as early as the 1st century B.C. Today's gamelans include rebabs (spiked fiddles), gongs, xylophones, and a wide variety of percussion instruments.









Listening Skills

Play what your teacher plays. Listen carefully.

THEORY

Natural

A natural sign cancels a flat (b) or sharp (#) and remains in effect for the entire measure.

126. LET'S READ "F" (F-natural)



THEORY

Half Step

A half step is the smallest distance between two notes.

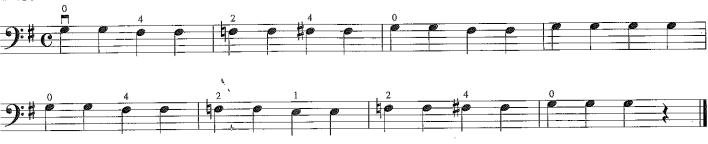
Whole Step

A whole step is two half steps combined.

127. HALF-STEPPIN' AND WHOLE STEPPIN'

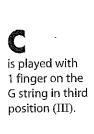


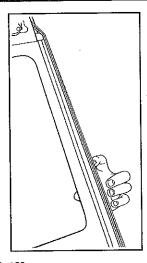
128. SPY GUY

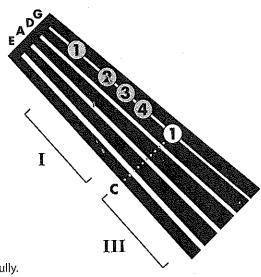


129. MINOR DETAILS









Listening Skills

Play what your teacher plays. Listen carefully.

130. LET'S READ "C" (C-natural)



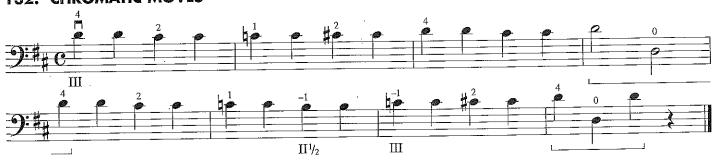
131. HALF STEP AND WHOLE STEP REVIEW



Chromatics

Chromatic notes are altered with sharps, flats, and naturals. A chromatic pattern is two or more notes in a sequence of half steps.

132. CHROMATIC MOVES





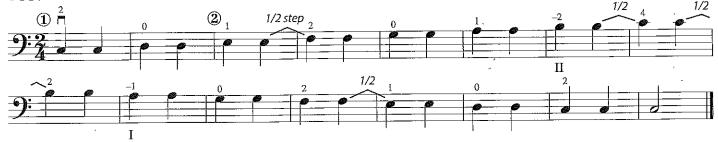






KAOHI

135. C MAJOR SCALE - Round



Duet A composition with two different parts, played together.

136. SPLIT DECISION - Duet



137. OAK HOLLOW



138. A-TISKET, A-TASKET



HSTORY

In the second half of the 1800s many composers tried to express the spirit of their own country by writing music with a distinct national flavor. Listen to the music of Russian composers such as Borodin, Tchaikovsky, and Rimsky-Korsakov. They often used folk songs and dance rhythms to convey their nationalism. Describe the sounds you hear.

139. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS QUIZ - RUSSIAN FOLK TUNE

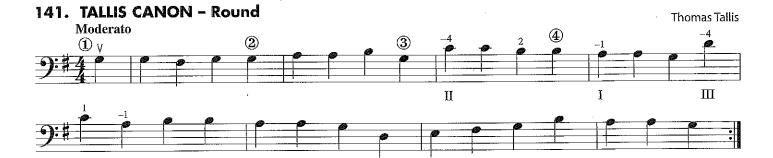






English composer **Thomas Tallis** (1505–1585) served as royal court composer during the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary, and Elizabeth I. Composers and artists during this era wanted to recreate the artistic and scientific glories of ancient Greece and Rome. The great artist Michelangelo painted the Sistine Chapel during Tallis' lifetime. **Rounds** and **canons** were popular forms of music during the early 16th century. Divide into groups, and play or sing the *Tallis Canon* as a 4-part round.

HISTORY

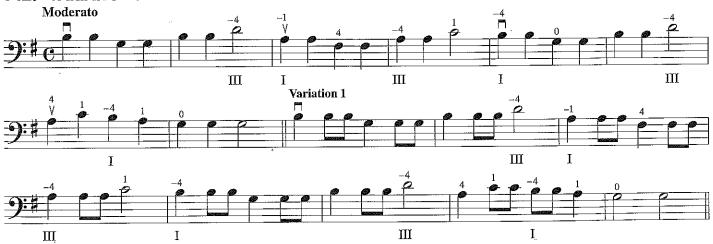


Theme and Variations

Theme and Variations is a musical form where a theme, or melody, is followed by different versions of the same theme.

THEORY

142. VARIATIONS ON A FAMILIAR SONG



Variation 2 – make up your own variation



Special Double Bass Exercise

Write the note names below. Then, write stories using as many note names as possible. Share your work with orchestra friends.



Team Work

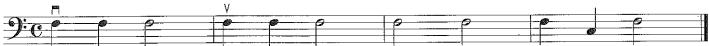
Great musicians give encouragement to their fellow performers. Viola and cello players will now learn new challenging notes. The success of your orchestra depends on everyone's talent and patience. Play your best as these sections advance their musical technique.

Listening Skills

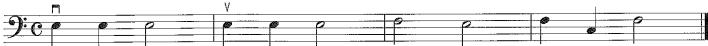
Play what your teacher plays. Listen carefully.



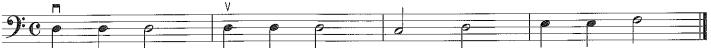


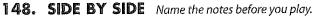


146. LET'S READ "E" - Review



147. LET'S READ "D" - Review





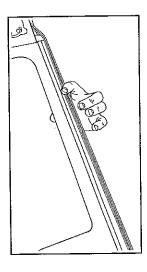


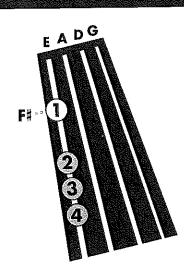
149. C MAJOR SCALE





is played with 1 finger on the E string.





Listening Skills

Play what your teacher plays. Listen carefully.

156. LET'S READ "E"



157. LET'S READ "A" - Review



158. LET'S READ "G" - Review



159. LET'S READ "F#" (F-sharp)

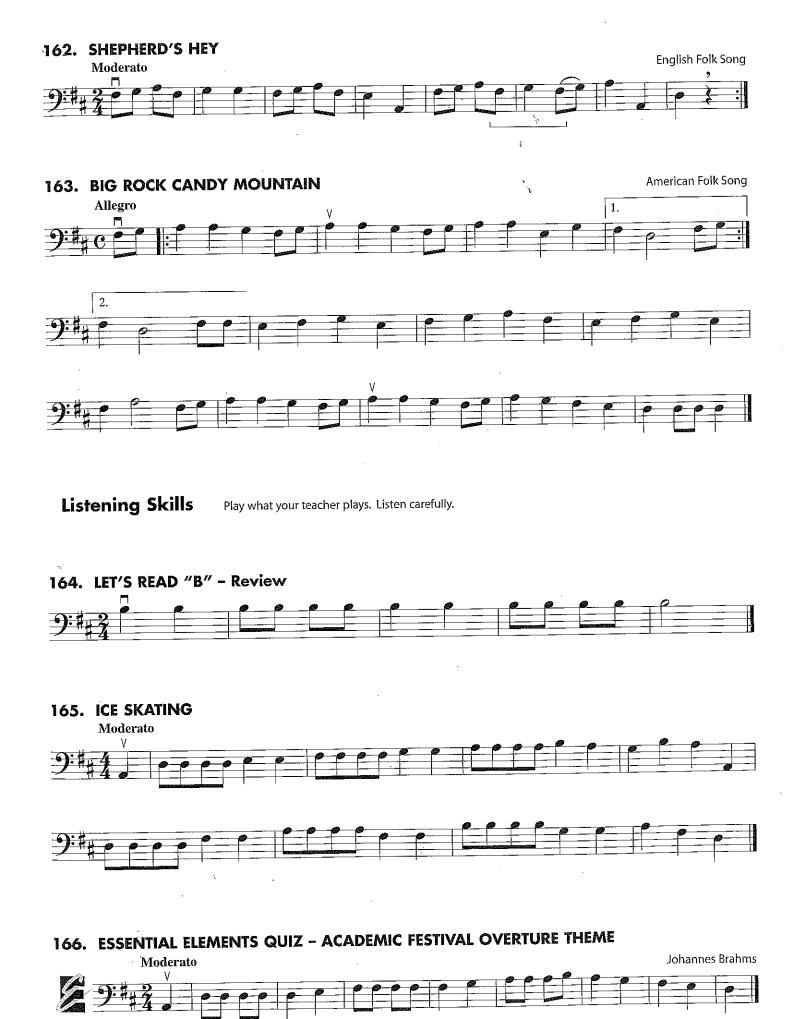


160. MOVING ALONG Name the notes before you play.



161. G MAJOR SCALE





Staccato or

Staccato notes are marked with a dot above or below the note. A staccato note is played with a stopped bow stroke. Listen for a space between staccato notes.

167. PLAY STACCATO



168. ARKANSAS TRAVELER



SKILL BUILDERS - G Major







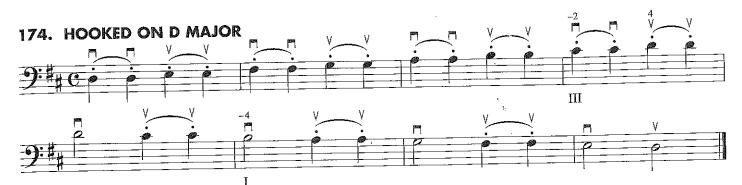








Hooked bowing is two or more notes played in the same direction with a stop between each note.



175. WALTZING BOWS



176. POP GOES THE WEASEL



SKILL BUILDERS - C Major



Dynamics

Dynamics tell us what volume to play or sing.

f (forte)

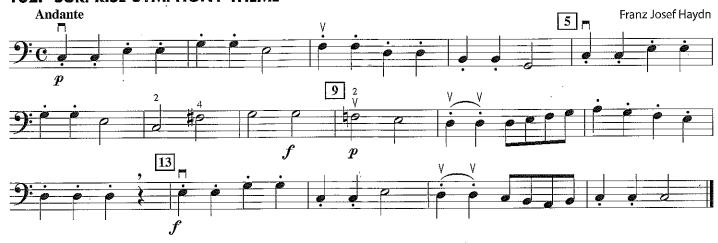
Play loudly. Add more weight to the bow. Play softly. Remove weight from the bow.

 $m{p}$ (piano)

181. FORTE AND PIANO



182. SURPRISE SYMPHONY THEME



SKILL BUILDERS – Scales and Arpeggios

Add your own dynamics to any of the lines below.



I

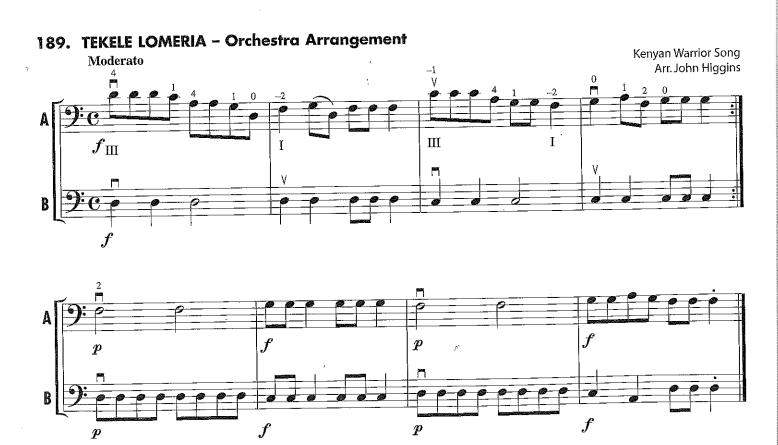
П





Africa is a large continent made up of many nations, and African folk music is as diverse as its many cultures. This folk song is from Kenya. The words describe warriors as they prepare for battle. Listen to examples of African folk music and describe the sound.





PERFORMANCE SPOTLIGHT

HISTORY

Italian composer **Gioachino Rossini** (1792–1868) wrote some of the world's favorite operas. "William Tell" was Rossini's last opera, and its popular theme is still heard on television.



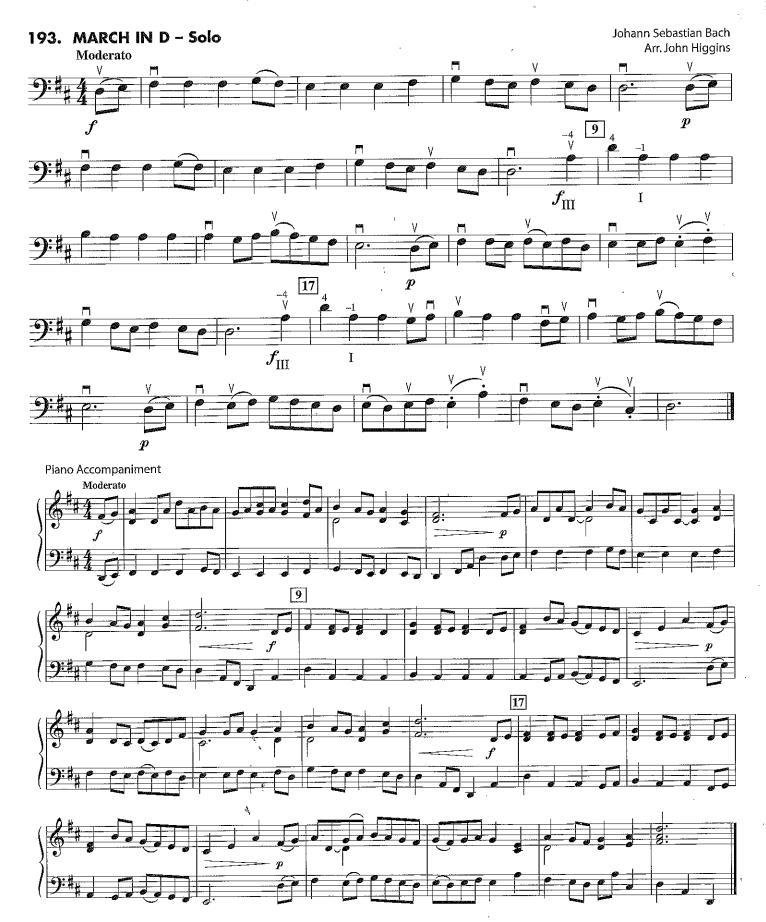
PERFORMANCE SPOTLIGHT



PERFORMANCE SPOTLIGHT

Solo with Piano Accompaniment

A solo is a composition written for one player, often with piano accompaniment. This solo was written by **Johann Sebastian Bach** (1685–1750). You and a piano accompanist can perform for the orchestra, your school, your family, and at other occasions. When you have learned the piece well, try memorizing it. Performing for an audience is an exciting part of being involved in music.



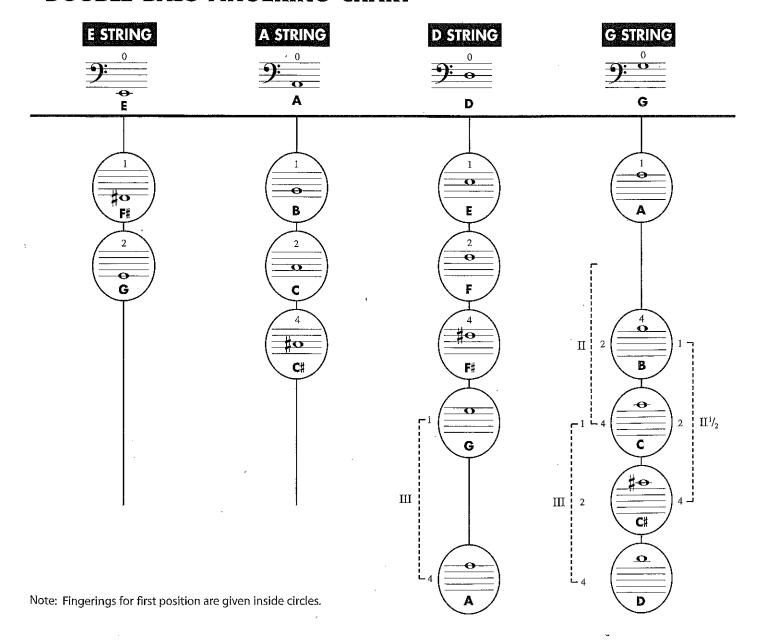
194. RHYTHM JAM Using the following notes, improvise your own rhythms.



195. INSTANT MELODY Using the following notes, improvise your own melody (Line A), to go with the accompaniment (Line B).



DOUBLE BASS FINGERING CHART





Definitions (pg.)

Allegro 20

Alto Clef 5 (viola)

Andante 20

Arco 16

Arpeggio 37

Bar Lines 4

Bass Clef 5 (cello & bass)

Beat 4

Bow Lift 17

Chord 24

Chromatics 33

Common Time 27

Counting 5

D.C. al Fine 30

Dotted Half Note 28

Double Bar 5

Down Bow 13

Duet 34

Dynamics 42

Eighth Notes 20

1st & 2nd Endings 21

Forte (f) 42

Half Note 22

Half Rest 22

Half Step 32.

Harmony 24

Hooked Bowing 41

Improvisation 47

Key Signature 15

Ledger Lines 10

Measures 4

Measure Number 24

Moderato 20

Music Staff 4

Natural 32

Piano (p) 42

Pickup 30

Pizzicato (pizz.) 4

Quarter Note 4

Quarter Rest 4

Repeat Sign 5

Repeat Signs (enclosed) 22

Round 24

Scale 11

Shadow Bowing 13

Sharp 6

Slur 29

Solo 46

Staccato 40

Tempo Markings 20

Theme And Variations 35

Tie 29

Time Signature 5

Treble Clef 5 (violin)

Up Bow 13

Upbeat 30

Whole Note 37

Whole Rest 37

Whole Step 32

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