

Teaching Strings for the Non-String Player

Mid-West Clinic

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"Ah, music! A magic far beyond all we do here." ~Albus Dumbledore

Outline

~ Resources - Books

How to Design and Teach a Successful School String and Orchestra Program

Dillon, Jacquelyn A. & Kriechbaum, Casimer G.

Neil A. Kjos, Jr., Publishers ISBN# 0-8497-5400-3

Teaching Strings

Klotman, Robert H.

Schirmer Books ISBN# 0-02-870961-6

Playing the String Game (ISBN# 0-292-73815-3)

The String Play (ISBN# 0-292-77606-3)

Young, Phyllis

University of Texas Press

Building a Successful String and Orchestra Program

Hamann, Donald L. & Gillespie, Robert

Oxford University Press ISBN# 978-0-19-985722-7

~ Resources - Online

- American String Teachers Association (ASTA)
 - <http://www.astaweb.com/>
- Michael Hopkins
 - <http://stringtechnique.com/index.htm>
- Todd Ehle
 - Search YouTube for "Professor V"
- Matt Spieker
 - <http://www.mystringcoach.com/>

~ Resource - Summer Camp

- Ohio State University String Teacher Workshop
 - July 5th - July 11, 2015
 - <http://music.osu.edu/outreach/osu-stw>

~ Two Biggest Complaints About Teaching Strings

- They Squeak
- They Can't Play in Tune

~ Tone Production

- Three Ingredients to Tone Production
 - Weight
 - Produced through the arm
 - Produced through pronation
 - Speed
 - How fast you use the bow, not related to tempo
 - Bow Placement
 - Sweet spot
 - Fingerboard
 - Bridge
- Other Factors
 - Use of rosin
 - Quality of bow hair
 - Don't touch the hair
 - Quality of the strings
 - Quality of the instrument
- Bow Usage
 - Music Issues
 - Long notes need slow bows with more weight



- Slurs are an equivalent to long notes



(Tone Production Continued)

- Full bows on short notes create accents
 - does not necessarily mean the tip



~ Intonation Step One - Note Names

- Right Finger on the Right Spot
 - Fingerboard Mapping
 - Think of the instrument as a fretted instrument
- Note Names vs. Numbers
 - Problem - Students who learn numbers don't fully understand key signatures and the notes associated with them
- A number doesn't have a spot on the instrument but a note does have a spot, (actually 2 spots)
- This F natural has only two spots on the instrument

Ex. 1



Ex. 2



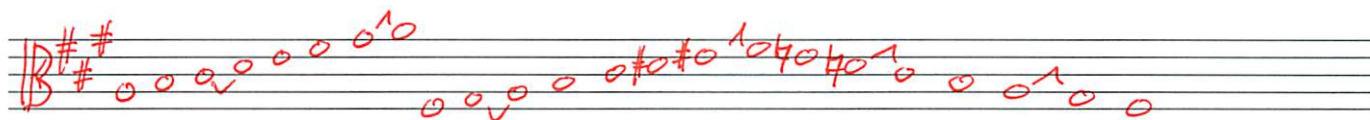
- Hand Frames
 - Four main hand frames
 - Whole Step, Whole Step, Whole Step
 - Whole Step, Whole Step, Half Step
 - Whole Step, Half Step, Whole Step
 - Half Step, Whole Step, Whole Step
 - Reinforce this in your warm-ups
 - Warm-up examples on www.mystringcoach.com
- No Frets Means Muscle Memory
 - Muscle memory means repetition
 - Dr. Suzuki, *Nurtured by Love*

It is a matter of “Ease comes with training.” We simply have to train and educate our ability, that is to say to do the thing over and over again until it feels natural, simply and easy. That is the secret.” p.51

A MAJOR/F# MINOR

1st Position

Write out a one-octave A major scale and an F# melodic minor scale. Label the half steps.



Map out the fingering chart.



Label half steps and then play the notes.

C String

G String

D String

A String



Label each string and then play these, "Noodle" exercises.

A String



D String



G String

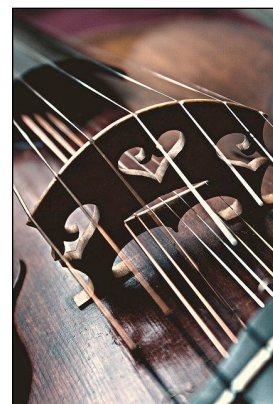


C String



~ Intonation Step Two - Wiggle Strings

- Sympathetic Vibrations
 - The most powerful lesson to learn for string players
- Concept
 - Playing a note, that has the same name as an open string, will cause the open string to vibrate
 - Viola d'Amore and Sitar use sympathetic vibrations
- Demonstrate on a string bass
 - Playing this G



- Makes the open G wiggle, (a lot!)
 - First finger Ds on the C string are best for Violas and Cellos
 - First finger A on the G string are best for violins
- Concept
 - Best to go from fat strings to thin strings
 - Still works from thin strings to fat strings
 - Listen for ringing rather than looking for wiggling
- Wiggle strings can set the hand shape, (no stickers needed)
 - Violin example
 - 1st finger A on the G string and 3rd finger G on the D string

~ Intonation - Learn the Perfect Fifth/Fourth

- Tuning Open Strings to Reinforce Perfect Fifths and Fourths
 - Tune your basses first then...
 - Tuning Order
 - Step One: Bass A / Cello A / Viola A / Violin A
 - Bass E / Violin E
 - Tuning Es with the droning As
 - Step Two: Bass A / Cello A / Viola A / Violin A
 - Bass D / Cello D / Viola D / Violin D
 - Tuning Ds with the droning As
 - Step Three: Bass D / Cello D / Viola D / Violin D
 - Bass G / Cello G / Viola G / Violin G
 - Tuning Gs with the droning Ds
 - Step Four: Bass G / Cello G / Viola G / Violin G
 - Cello C / Viola C
 - Tuning Cs with the droning Gs

- Benefits of training perfect 5ths every day
 - Tuning instruments will get faster
 - Tuning chords will become easier
 - The fifth is the second interval they need to hear
 - Remember tuning order
 - Root, Fifth, Third, Sevenths and other tones
- Equal Temperament vs. Just Intonation
 - Teach this to older students
 - Most tuners don't help string players
 - Tonal Energy Tuner
 - Two great demonstrations
 - Viola C string
 - Two Es on the violin

~ Miscellaneous Items

- Warm Ups
 - Most important part of the day
 - Directed warm ups for beginning groups to reinforce new concepts
 - Prescribed warm ups
 - Reinforce essentials
 - On the left side then the right side
 - http://www.mystringcoach.com/Middle_School_Warm_Ups.pdf
 - http://www.mystringcoach.com/High_School_Warm_Ups.pdf
- Thumb placements
 - Right Thumb
 - Bent and flexible
 - Left Thumb
 - Violin and Viola
 - Across from the 1st finger
 - Pointing to the ceiling
 - Cello and Bass
 - Horizontal to the fingerboard
 - Parallel to the floor
- Left Elbow Placement
 - Violin and Viola
 - Under the arm
 - Cello and Bass
 - Up enough to make the wrist straight

- Shifting Quick Tips
 - Make sure thumb goes with the hand
 - Violins and violas - thumbs with 1st finger
 - Cellos and basses - thumbs with 2nd finger
 - Practice position spots with drones
 - Siren exercise
 - Marking shifts in the music
 - Old finger / Dash / New finger



- All shifts are 1 to 1
 - In the above example, second measure, I think 1st finger D down to 1st finger B
 - Higher numbered fingers fall into the appropriate hand frame
- Three Levels of Playing
 - This keeps the advanced students busy in a beginning class
 - 1st Level - Play the notes as is
 - 2nd Level - Play the same notes but in different positions
 - 3rd Level - Play the notes up one octave and in different positions

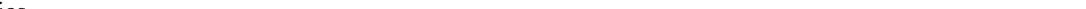
Middle School Warm Ups

Matthew H. Spieker

Long Tones

Chromatics

Chromatics



A musical staff in treble clef showing a sequence of 12 eighth notes. The notes are: C4, C#4, D4, D#4, E4, E#4, F4, F#4, G4, G#4, A4, and A#4. The notes are grouped in pairs of six, with a slur over the first six and a '4' above the last note.

The first staff of music is in treble clef and contains a sequence of notes: a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F#4. A finger number '4' is written above the first B4 note.

Hand Frame #1 4

[illegible]

Hand Frame #2 4

Hand Frame #2

Musical notation for Hand Frame #2, showing a sequence of notes and rests on a staff. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F6, G6, A6, B6, C7, D7, E7, F7, G7, A7, B7, C8, D8, E8, F8, G8, A8, B8, C9, D9, E9, F9, G9, A9, B9, C10, D10, E10, F10, G10, A10, B10, C11, D11, E11, F11, G11, A11, B11, C12, D12, E12, F12, G12, A12, B12, C13, D13, E13, F13, G13, A13, B13, C14, D14, E14, F14, G14, A14, B14, C15, D15, E15, F15, G15, A15, B15, C16, D16, E16, F16, G16, A16, B16, C17, D17, E17, F17, G17, A17, B17, C18, D18, E18, F18, G18, A18, B18, C19, D19, E19, F19, G19, A19, B19, C20, D20, E20, F20, G20, A20, B20, C21, D21, E21, F21, G21, A21, B21, C22, D22, E22, F22, G22, A22, B22, C23, D23, E23, F23, G23, A23, B23, C24, D24, E24, F24, G24, A24, B24, C25, D25, E25, F25, G25, A25, B25, C26, D26, E26, F26, G26, A26, B26, C27, D27, E27, F27, G27, A27, B27, C28, D28, E28, F28, G28, A28, B28, C29, D29, E29, F29, G29, A29, B29, C30, D30, E30, F30, G30, A30, B30, C31, D31, E31, F31, G31, A31, B31, C32, D32, E32, F32, G32, A32, B32, C33, D33, E33, F33, G33, A33, B33, C34, D34, E34, F34, G34, A34, B34, C35, D35, E35, F35, G35, A35, B35, C36, D36, E36, F36, G36, A36, B36, C37, D37, E37, F37, G37, A37, B37, C38, D38, E38, F38, G38, A38, B38, C39, D39, E39, F39, G39, A39, B39, C40, D40, E40, F40, G40, A40, B40, C41, D41, E41, F41, G41, A41, B41, C42, D42, E42, F42, G42, A42, B42, C43, D43, E43, F43, G43, A43, B43, C44, D44, E44, F44, G44, A44, B44, C45, D45, E45, F45, G45, A45, B45, C46, D46, E46, F46, G46, A46, B46, C47, D47, E47, F47, G47, A47, B47, C48, D48, E48, F48, G48, A48, B48, C49, D49, E49, F49, G49, A49, B49, C50, D50, E50, F50, G50, A50, B50, C51, D51, E51, F51, G51, A51, B51, C52, D52, E52, F52, G52, A52, B52, C53, D53, E53, F53, G53, A53, B53, C54, D54, E54, F54, G54, A54, B54, C55, D55, E55, F55, G55, A55, B55, C56, D56, E56, F56, G56, A56, B56, C57, D57, E57, F57, G57, A57, B57, C58, D58, E58, F58, G58, A58, B58, C59, D59, E59, F59, G59, A59, B59, C60, D60, E60, F60, G60, A60, B60, C61, D61, E61, F61, G61, A61, B61, C62, D62, E62, F62, G62, A62, B62, C63, D63, E63, F63, G63, A63, B63, C64, D64, E64, F64, G64, A64, B64, C65, D65, E65, F65, G65, A65, B65, C66, D66, E66, F66, G66, A66, B66, C67, D67, E67, F67, G67, A67, B67, C68, D68, E68, F68, G68, A68, B68, C69, D69, E69, F69, G69, A69, B69, C70, D70, E70, F70, G70, A70, B70, C71, D71, E71, F71, G71, A71, B71, C72, D72, E72, F72, G72, A72, B72, C73, D73, E73, F73, G73, A73, B73, C74, D74, E74, F74, G74, A74, B74, C75, D75, E75, F75, G75, A75, B75, C76, D76, E76, F76, G76, A76, B76, C77, D77, E77, F77, G77, A77, B77, C78, D78, E78, F78, G78, A78, B78, C79, D79, E79, F79, G79, A79, B79, C80, D80, E80, F80, G80, A80, B80, C81, D81, E81, F81, G81, A81, B81, C82, D82, E82, F82, G82, A82, B82, C83, D83, E83, F83, G83, A83, B83, C84, D84, E84, F84, G84, A84, B84, C85, D85, E85, F85, G85, A85, B85, C86, D86, E86, F86, G86, A86, B86, C87, D87, E87, F87, G87, A87, B87, C88, D88, E88, F88, G88, A88, B88, C89, D89, E89, F89, G89, A89, B89, C90, D90, E90, F90, G90, A90, B90, C91, D91, E91, F91, G91, A91, B91, C92, D92, E92, F92, G92, A92, B92, C93, D93, E93, F93, G93, A93, B93, C94, D94, E94, F94, G94, A94, B94, C95, D95, E95, F95, G95, A95, B95, C96, D96, E96, F96, G96, A96, B96, C97, D97, E97, F97, G97, A97, B97, C98, D98, E98, F98, G98, A98, B98, C99, D99, E99, F99, G99, A99, B99, C100, D100, E100, F100, G100, A100, B100, C101, D101, E101, F101, G101, A101, B101, C102, D102, E102, F102, G102, A102, B102, C103, D103, E103, F103, G103, A103, B103, C104, D104, E104, F104, G104, A104, B104, C105, D105, E105, F105, G105, A105, B105, C106, D106, E106, F106, G106, A106, B106, C107, D107, E107, F107, G107, A107, B107, C108, D108, E108, F108, G108, A108, B108, C109, D109, E109, F109, G109, A109, B109, C110, D110, E110, F110, G110, A110, B110, C111, D111, E111, F111, G111, A111, B111, C112, D112, E112, F112, G112, A112, B112, C113, D113, E113, F113, G113, A113, B113, C114, D114, E114, F114, G114, A114, B114, C115, D115, E115, F115, G115, A115, B115, C116, D116, E116, F116, G116, A116, B116, C117, D117, E117, F117, G117, A117, B117, C118, D118, E118, F118, G118, A118, B118, C119, D119, E119, F119, G119, A119, B119, C120, D120, E120, F120, G120, A120, B120, C121, D121, E121, F121, G121, A121, B121, C122, D122, E122, F122, G122, A122, B122, C123, D123, E123, F123, G123, A123, B123, C124, D124, E124, F124, G124, A124, B124, C125, D125, E125, F125, G125, A125, B125, C126, D126, E126, F126, G126, A126, B126, C127, D127, E127, F127, G127, A127, B127, C128, D128, E128, F128, G128, A128, B128, C129, D129, E129, F129, G129, A129, B129, C130, D130, E130, F130, G130, A130, B130, C131, D131, E131, F131, G131, A131, B131, C132, D132, E132, F132, G132, A132, B132, C133, D133, E133, F133, G133, A133, B133, C134, D134, E134, F134, G134, A134, B134, C135, D135, E135, F135, G135, A135, B135, C136, D136, E136, F136, G136, A136, B136, C137, D137, E137, F137, G137, A137, B137, C138, D138, E138, F138, G138, A138, B138, C139, D139, E139, F139, G139, A139, B139, C140, D140, E140,

Hand Frame #3 4

Hand Frame #3

4 4 4 0 4 4

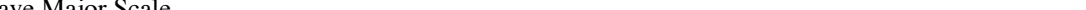
Musical notation for Hand Frame #3, showing a sequence of notes and rests with fingerings indicated above the staff.

Hand Frame #4

A musical staff labeled "Hand Frame #4". It contains a sequence of notes: G4, A4, B4, C5 (marked with a "4"), D5, E5, F#5, G5 (marked with a "4"). There are two slurs over the last four notes. The first slur covers D5, E5, F#5, and G5. The second slur covers G5, F#5, E5, and D5. Above the staff, there are markings: "4" above C5, "4" above G5, "0" below the first slur, and "4" and "4" above the second slur.

Two Octave Major Scale

Two Octave Major Scale



The image shows a musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The scale starts on G4 and ascends through two octaves to G6. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F#6, G6. The scale is written as a single melodic line.

Two Octave Melodic Minor Scale

Two Octave Melodic Minor Scale

A musical staff showing the two-octave melodic minor scale starting on C4. The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, F#2, E2, D2, C2. The first octave (C4-B4) uses sharps for F# and C#, while the second octave (B3-C5) uses naturals for all notes.

The image displays two staves of musical notation for the 'Fugue for Anna Magdalena' by J.S. Bach. The notation is written in treble clef and features a variety of note values, including eighth and sixteenth notes, as well as rests. The first staff begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The second staff continues the piece, maintaining the same key signature and time signature. The notation includes various musical symbols such as beams, slurs, and accidentals, indicating the complex harmonic and melodic structure of the fugue.

[illegible]

Hook

sim.

The musical notation for the Hook of "The Sound of Silence" is shown on a single staff. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of a series of eighth and quarter notes, with a final measure containing a half note. The notation includes a "Hook" label above the first measure and a "sim." (simile) marking above the eighth measure, indicating a continuation of the pattern. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half).

Four director will give you the chord progression.

I ii iii IV V vi vii°

Bach

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The piece begins with a treble staff containing a whole note chord (F#4, A4) marked with a 'V' above it. The bass staff starts with a whole note chord (F#2, A2). The melody continues with eighth and quarter notes, including a sharp sign (#) on the F#4 line. The piece concludes with a double bar line in the treble staff and a final whole note chord (F#2, A2) in the bass staff.