

# Viola Day for Violinists

A New Approach to Mastering the Alto Clef in a Few Hours

Frank Lestina



**Midwest Clinic**

**Thursday**

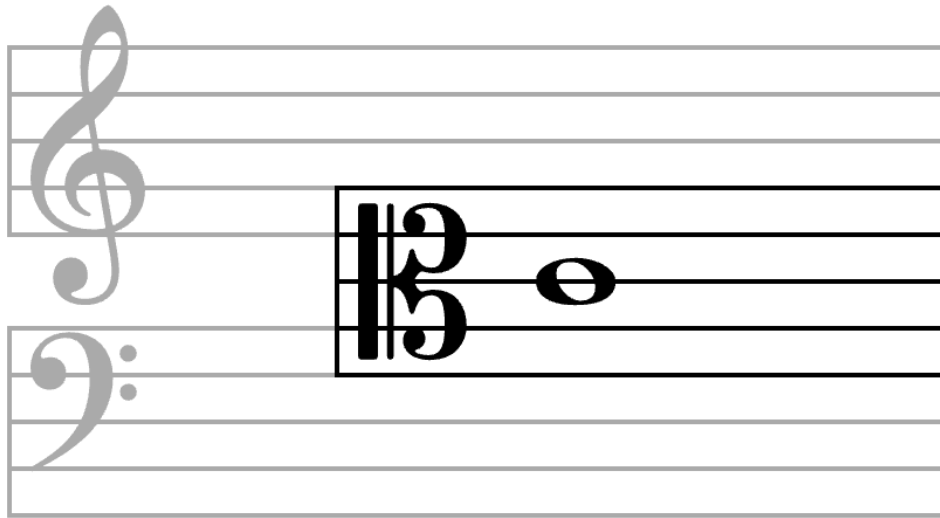
**December 19, 2024**

**1:15 PM**

**Room W186**

- I. **How the alto clef fits into the grand staff**
  - a. The top two strings of the viola are in Treble Clef
  - b. The bottom two strings are in Bass Clef
- II. **Some of the tricks that have been used to help learn the Alto Clef**
  - a. The notes are only one off from treble or bass clef.
  - b. If you think you are in 3<sup>rd</sup> position the notes are the same.
- III. **How to sell this to your violinists**
  - a. Have a few school violas for them to use.
  - b. Have a violinist play a viola with NO practice.
    - i. The fingers adjust to the new spacing almost immediately.
  - c. Assure them that you will not force them to move to the viola section.
    - i. They can play viola in chamber ensembles.
    - ii. If you teach all the violinists, they can alternate.
- IV. **The app will help students learn quickly.**
  - a. Part 1 Viola Fingerboard with buttons for answers.
  - b. Part 2 allows students to practice one or two strings at a time.
  - c. Part 3 is just to practice the Alto Clef. No viola fingerboard
- V. **Viola as a transposing instrument (another option).**
  - a. Think about Oboe and English Horn – same fingerings.
  - b. Viola “could” be a transposing instrument.
    - i. This would require a Viola in F and in Treble Clef.
    - ii. Violinists could play viola in minutes!
- VI. **Other considerations**
  - i. Violists learning to play violin
  - ii. Cellists learn to play bass

My Viola App can be found at: <https://vln2vla.franklestina.com>

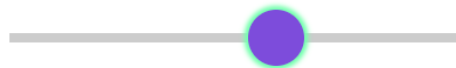


Score: 0/0

New Note

Reset Score

Grand Staff Lightness



C

G

D

A

D

A

E

B

F

C

E

B

F

C

G

D