

TEACHING STRINGS
Moving Toward Mastery: R, F, and P
Dr. Brenda Mitchell, Miami University
Dr. Joanne Erwin, Oberlin Conservatory
Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic
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I. Elements of mastery for string players

Right hand skills - (bowstroke, bow lanes, bow distribution, bowing styles)

Left hand skills (tetrachord-hand shapes/key areas, chromatic alteration, backward extension/forward extension, shifting, harmonics)

Literacy skills (understanding notation, music theory, visual understanding, reading and writing music)

Musicianship (aural skills, interpreting notation accurately, improvisation, performance style)

II. How do we balance the development of these elements?

Take the long view over time.

Review of known skills, concepts, and music fundamentals

Focus on new skills, concepts, and music fundamentals

Preparation of new skills or techniques

III. Using these Strategies in an organizational scheme.

A. The teacher decides:

1) - in which order to address technical and musical elements

2) - how much time to allocate to each issue

3) - how to carefully prepare skills prior to their introduction.

B. Each lesson contains R, F, P to satisfy the curriculum and their specific performance timeline. Take the long view over time.

C. These strategies (R, F, P) encourage the teacher to view the lesson from a broader perspective, looking beyond just the specific piece or exercise (concept-driven teaching).

IV. Applications for various levels of development (and times in the year):

Beginners

Intermediate

Advanced

Generic Lesson Plan

- I. Class and Grade
- II. Previous knowledge - REVIEW
- III. National and State Standards
- IV. Goal and Objectives
- V. Strategies – FOCUS/PREPARATION
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
- VI. Assessment/Evaluation

Elementary/Beginners ----Monthly plan/Quarter/Concert sequence

	Right Hand	Left hand	Literacy	Musicianship
Review				
Focus				
Preparation				

Ensemble ---- Monthly plan/Quarter/Concert sequence

	Right Hand	Left hand	Literacy	Musicianship
Review				
Focus				
Preparation				

References:

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