How Do We Get There From Here?

A step-by-step approach for classical string teachers to expand their programs to include fiddle, jazz, and rock styles

Presented by:

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- Demonstration Group: Evanston Township High School and director Charlie Abplanalp
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Outline:

1. Who Are We?
2. What Have We Created at WSU?
   a. 2 classes: Fiddling & Jazz String Improvisation
   b. String Improvisation Day
   c. Global Learning (Internet2) with Univ. of Limerick’s Irish World Music Center
3. How to Start a Program: Begin with Blues
4. Listening, Imitating: It’s All About Style
5. Beginning Improvisation: “Games”
   a. call and response to build up pentatonic scale
   b. bass line primer
   c. Student-written tune
   a. Bowing:
      i. slur over beats
      ii. vary down and up bows
      iii. use bowing to accentuate notes
   b. Notes: Skip the 2nd and 6th scale degree and use intervals of a 3rd or bigger
   c. Articulation:
      i. Vary accents off of 1st beat
      ii. Emphasize 2nd and 4th beat
   d. Tone:
      i. Vibrato
      ii. Attack and decay
7. Further Resources
8. Expanding the Program: Teaming Up With Others
   a. iMovie: student instructional videos
   b. Technology possibilities: connecting cultures, local exposure, tutorial, website
   c. Performances: recruiting for the program
   d. Connect with local artists
9. Questions
10. Tune: Blues Romp
Resources:

Listening List:

**Old Time**

- **Eck Robertson**- ‘Old Time Texas Fiddler’ (1922-29) - County Records
- **Ed Haley**- ‘Forked Deer’ - Rounder Select
- **Tommy Jarrell**- The Legacy of Tommy Jarrell (Vol.1) - Sail Away Ladies’ - County Records
- **Bruce Molsky**- ‘Lost Boy’ - Rounder (CD 0361)

**Bluegrass**

- **Bill Monroe**’s fiddlers- The Music of Bill Monroe’ (4CD’s) - MCA
- **Richard Greene**- one of my favorite fiddlers-very inventive and clean- ‘Wolves A’Howlin’ - Rebel Records (REB-CD-1730)

**Western Swing**

- **Johnny Gimble**- ‘The Texas Fiddle Collection’
- **Paul Anastasio**- www.swingcatenterprises.com

**Blues Fiddle**

- **Lonnie Johnson**- ‘Violin, Sing the Blues For Me: African-American Fiddlers (1926-49)’ - Old Hat
- **Howard Armstrong**- ‘Martin, Bogan and Armstrong’ - Folk Lyric (003)
- **Clarence Gatemouth Brown**- ‘The Blues Ain’t Nothin’ - Bluebird (33033)

**Jazz Violin**

- **Stuff Smith**- Rhythmic, really swingin’
- **Stephane Grappelli**- Need I say more?
- **Claude Williams**- Still swingin’ in his 90’s
- **Jean Luc Ponty**- Electric violin pioneer (Aurora and Imaginary Voyage are especially good)

**Mark O’ Conner**

In a category all by himself, he has changed the face of violin playing forever!
‘Heroes’ Warner Bros. (9 45257-2)
‘30 Year Retrospective’ (OMAC Records-5)

**Other Fiddle Players Who Play Blues:**

- **Johnny Frigo** - swing
- **Darol Anger** – fiddle & swing
- **Tracy Silverman** – swing & rock
- **Evan Price** – fiddle & swing
- **Matt Glaser** – fiddle & swing
- **Michal Urbaniak** – rock & blues
- **Buddy Spicher** – County Western
- **Mark Wood** – Rock
- **Joe Venuti** – swing
- **Eddie South** – swing
- **Svend Amussen** – swing

**Soldier String Quartet** – rock & blues

**Turtle Island String Quartet** – fiddle & jazz

Websites

- www.siegelproductions.ca
- www.siegel.net
- www.lightbubble.com/bowed
- www.fiddlechicks.com
- www.StringsCentral.com

Books & Music

- **Julie Lyonn Lieberman**. Lots of great fiddle and improv books. An unbelievable resource. Go to JulieLyonn.com
- **Randy Sabien**- Jazz Philharmonic, Alfred Pub. 2000 (ISBN 0-7390-1038-7) These are great for M.S. and H.S. groups. Solos are written out, but can be made up and played over the changes
- **Martin Norgaard**- Jazz Fiddle Wizard & Jazz Fiddle Wizard Junior, Mel Bay Pub. 2000 (MB98379BCD) Good step by step approach to fiddle improv
- **Bert Ligon**- Music for Jazz String Ensembles. These are excellent charts. Contact Bert at: Bligon@mozart.sc.edu
- **Turtle Island String Quartet**- available through sharmusic.com or tisq.com. Advanced
- **Latham Music**- Jammin’ Jazz Standards for String Quartet. Latham-music.com

Videos

- **Darol Anger**- Blues on the Fiddle, Homespun Tapes, 2001 - This is really excellent and fun.
- **Richard Greene**- Bluegrass Fiddle, Homespun Tapes, 1998 - This is truly well done
- **Matt Glaser**- Swingin Jazz Violin, Homespun.

Bowing Patterns:
Blues Cheat Sheet

Everything you need to know about blues on 1 sheet, with examples in A

1. The Chords and Scales:

   - O's are chord tones
   - X's are “avoid” notes. Treat them like regular scale tones or leave them out.

2. Bass Line Primer with Standard Blues Chord Changes and Example Bass Line:
   - Play a quarter note on every beat
   - If the 1st beat is a chord change play the root (tonic) on the 1st beat
   - If the 1st beat is not a chord change, play either the 5th or the root on the 1st beat
   - Approach each 1st beat by ½ step above or below
   - Play chord tones (root, 3rd, 5th, 7th) or scale tones on beats 2 and 3
   - Within these rules, go for variety

   1st phrase
   (A)

   2nd phrase
   (A')

   3rd phrase
   (B)

3. A Blues scales

   Simple: Variations:

4. Guidelines:
   - Base solos on the 8th note
   - Use the Major 3rd (C#) except in measures 5, 6, and 10
   - Use long notes to create a melody
   - Take breathes. Imitate a singer.
   - Play only ½ the time in your solo.
   - Tell a story
     i. Introduction (setting)
     ii. Development
     iii. Climax
     iv. Epilogue