

# Beginning Violin Method

by

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This violin method has been developed over the last twenty years and continues to be a work in progress. It is organized to serve three directives:

Present a violin-specific scale method that gives beginning violin students equal facility in all Keys around the Circle of Fifths.

Integrate the traditions of Western European Classical Music literature and schools of violin technique with the music and improvisation practices cultivated through popular American styles of music with Afro-Cuban influences. The goal is to provide the student with the ability to read and improvise music equally well.

Incorporate a wide survey of information about the world into the experience of learning to play the violin.

Materials that have been created for both individual and group violin lessons include:

A set of Silent Warm-Up Exercises;

An instructional rote-based Beginning Violin CD with printed lesson sheets for each CD Track;

A dance/movement series designed to develop time and rhythm in the large limbs of the body – arms and legs. It is combined with learning to recognize notated rhythms. The rhythms are then transferred to the extremities and smaller muscle groups – hands and fingers – by playing rhythms first with the Bow, then adding pitches with the left-hand;

A special series on the Science of Bowing;

A Beginning Music Notation Workbook that introduces the three elements of music – pitch, rhythm and dynamics – and their written symbols;

An Intermediate Music Notation Workbook that requires notation of the short pieces on the Beginning Violin CD. This employs a practice used by jazz musicians to **transcribe**, or write down what is heard;

A Beginning Improvisation series.

Most students begin with the Beginning Violin CD and Beginning Notation Workbook. The other materials are not used in any specific order, but woven together to meet the needs of individuals or groups. Original materials are combined with other publications to build repertoire and music-reading skills.