



Ten graded pieces for beginners

These teaching notes provide a short description and technical information about each piece.

All these pieces can be used independently or simultaneously with the viola/cello/double bass pieces.

Key signatures have not been included

<p><b>1. Pizz fits here</b></p>	<p>A simple first piece: students play pizzicato on open G and open D strings. The piece is played twice through.</p> <p>Notes used:                    G, D</p> <p>Key:                                G major</p> <p>Learning points:                stave treble clef time signature 4/4 notes G, D crotchet/crotchet rest double bar pizz.</p>
<p><b>2. Here's a rest</b></p>	<p>This is an accompaniment to Twinkle, twinkle little star; the structure is ABA. There are two versions of the same piece with different lyrics: one uses 'crotchets'; the other 'quarter notes'.</p> <p>Notes used:                    G, D, A</p> <p>Key:                                D major</p> <p>Learning points:                new note: A reinforces crotchet/crotchet rest listening to an accompaniment</p>



<p><b>3. Get that flea</b></p>	<p>This piece introduces open string E. There's an opportunity for a bit of fun in bars 9-10, when the students are invited to pizz any string on the wrong side of the bridge. There's a flea in the accompaniment, too!</p> <p>Notes used:                 D, A, E</p> <p>Key:                             A minor</p> <p>Learning points:           new note: E pizz on the wrong side of the bridge</p>
<p><b>4. Hands to feet</b></p>	<p>Bowing is introduced here, and all four strings are played. The piece is played twice through. Speak or whisper the words in bars 11-12 and 21-22, and finish with a loud and rhythmic stamp of one foot!</p> <p>Notes used:                 G, D, A, E</p> <p>Key:                             A major</p> <p>Learning points:           arco down-up bowing written symbols for down-bow/up-bow</p>
<p><b>5. Our team</b></p>	<p>A familiar football rhythm becomes a performance piece. First, all sing; then, all play. Next, divide the class into two groups, one to sing and one to play. If anyone wants to go further, invite them to perform both parts, singing and playing. Bring variety and fun to the vocal line by adding/substituting percussion/handclaps/col legno.</p> <p>Notes used:                 G, D, A, E</p> <p>Key:                             D major</p> <p>Learning points:           minim whole bar rest reinforces all four strings and bowing reading two staves voices/percussion/handclaps/col legno</p>



<p><b>6. Awesome twosome</b></p>	<p>This is a duet for two groups/players, playing pizz the first time through and arco the second. Part 1 is easier than Part 2. On the recording, the pause lasts for seven beats.</p> <p>Notes used: G, D, A, E</p> <p>Key: D major</p> <p>Learning points: minim rest pause reinforces minims and whole bar rests reinforces pizz and arco reinforces reading two staves</p>
<p><b>7. Fresh breeze</b></p>	<p>An introduction to 3/4 that includes gently swaying from side to side. There are three sections: the first and second are similar (although not identical) and the last is different.</p> <p>Notes used: G, D, A, E</p> <p>Key: D major</p> <p>Learning points: time signature 3/4 dotted minims tempo/style indication reinforces pause</p>
<p><b>8. 3-legged race</b></p>	<p>Whisper/speak/shout the words in the opening bars and at the end with authenticity! In the final bar, students play a pizz arpeggio across all four strings instead of – or as well as – a cheer! The structure is AABA.</p> <p>Notes used: G, D, A, E</p> <p>Key: C minor</p> <p>Learning points: reinforces 3/4 pizz arpeggio</p>



<b>9. Whoosh round the world</b>	<p>Circular bowing and dynamics f/p are introduced.</p> <p>Notes used: G, D, A, E</p> <p>Key: D minor</p> <p>Learning points: circular bowing dynamics: f, p crossing two strings</p>
<b>10. Three threes</b>	<p>Here's an impressive performance duet. The 'three threes' in the title refer to the 3-bar phrases in 3/4 (think of it in 12/8). The three sections (ABA) are played arco/pizz/arco. Section A – both times it comes – is in clear 3-bar phrases. Section B has three 3-bar phrases, then an 8-bar phrase to lead in to the recap.</p> <p>Notes used: G, D, A, E</p> <p>Key: G major</p> <p>Learning points: duet in 3/4 rall, a tempo</p>