



-Home Practice Instructions- VIOLIN LEVEL 1

from the violin lesson studio of Aimee Knight



BOOK #1: I CAN READ MUSIC

Materials : Metronome (for rhythm only)

PITCH

1. **Say each letter name** out loud in line 1 (A, B, C#, etc.) as quickly as you can..
2. Play the notes **slowly** using the **full distance** between the tapes on your bow.
3. Repeat step 1 and 2 for each line. If you make an error, **stop and replay the line** from the beginning.

Reasons to replay the line: wrong note, wrong string, did not use full length of bow (tape to tape)

RHYTHM

1. Turn on the metronome and set to $\text{♩} = 80$
2. **Say the rhythm syllables** out loud in line 1 (ta, ta-ah, shh, etc.) using one of the **Shadow Bowing Options** below. Always **start on a down bow** and **use a proportional amount of bow** to the note length. Make sure to stay on beat!
3. Repeat step 1 and 2 for each line. If you make an error, **stop and replay the line** from the beginning.

Reasons to replay the line: wrong rhythm, wrong string, got off beat with the metronome

Notes:

- Most students will be assigned **both PITCH and RHYTHM** each week. Younger students and brand new beginners may just be assigned one or the other on alternating weeks.

BOOK #2: SUZUKI

Materials: Metronome, Tracks (on website)

PERFORMANCE PIECE

Each student will have one primary performance piece that they will practice weekly until it is passed off. Here are the steps for daily practice.

1. **Listen to the DEMO track** using one of the **Active Listening Options** listed below.
2. Play the piece slowly with **NO track**. You should go as slow as you need to go to avoid making errors.
3. Play the piece with the **SLOW track**. If you cannot keep up yet without errors, go back to step 2 or work with the metronome (see below).
4. Play the piece with the **BACKING track**. If you cannot keep up yet without error, work with the metronome.
5. Once you have **mastered the piece with the BACKING track**, review it every day and you should be able to pass it off at your next lesson!

WORKING WITH THE METRONOME

- When each piece is assigned, **we write the tempo** for the slow track and backing track.
- If needed, we will write a **tempo checklist** in the book with a list of metronome tempos to play in order.
- Use **increments of 5 or 10** when increasing the tempo.

Example: If the slow track is $\text{♩} = 80$ and the backing track is $\text{♩} = 100$, here would be the tempo checklist to prepare to use the backing track:

$\text{♩} = 85$ ____ $\text{♩} = 90$ ____ $\text{♩} = 95$ ____ $\text{♩} = 100$ ____



Active Listening Options

Listen to the demo track while...

1. Pointing to the notes as they go by
2. Saying the pitch letter names out loud
3. Saying the rhythm syllables out loud
4. Practicing pitch fingerings on your left hand
5. Shadow bowing the rhythm only (no violin)
6. Shadow bowing both hands by holding your bow upside-down and placing it on your left arm under your violin

Shadow Bowing Options

Shadow bowing (also called air bowing) is a way to focus on your bow without using the violin. Practice the bow speed, length, and direction with...

1. Just your right arm and no prop
2. Holding a pencil
3. Holding your bow (no violin)

Always use the correct bow hold even without the violin!

LESSON WEBSITE

Visit <https://sites.google.com/foothillchristian.org/orchestra/home>

or scan the QR code below:



How do you know what to practice?

Always practice in the **same order** that we learn in lessons. Play **I Can Read Music** first and then **Suzuki**. Keep the **binder clips** in your book to turn quickly to the correct page. Look for the most recent **date** - if there is no date and nothing written, it has not been assigned yet. Once an exercise or piece is passed off and completed, we will add a **sticker** to the page. If there is a sticker, you are no longer expected to practice that assignment at home. You should **practice both books** every time you practice. It is more important to **complete the assignments** successfully rather than focus on how many minutes you are practicing. Plan to **practice every day** so that if you miss a day or two, you still practiced most days. You will learn faster when you practice daily and correctly.