

# Student Study Pages: BASS

## Unit 1: Getting Started

### 1. Classroom Hints



- ✓ Bring your notebook, pencil, and instrument to every class.
- ✓ Participate fully in each class; if your teacher is speaking to a classmate, check yourself to make sure you are doing it right!
- ✓ Memorize the parts of the instrument and bow so you can follow instruction.

### 2. Practice Hints

- ✓ Check your playing position:
  - a) Posture
  - b) Instrument Hold: Left hand stays on the upper bout for open strings
  - c) Pizzicato Position or Bow Hold
- ✓ Practice carefully, with a steady beat.
- ✓ Learn how to properly care for your instrument on **pages 3 and 4**.
- ✓ Refer to the Practice Assignment on **page 2**.



### 3. Here are some accompaniments to songs using the open strings.

- ✓ Memorize your open strings on the cover, which is your **Fingering Chart**
- ✓ A double bar line (  ) means the song is over.
- ✓ A repeat sign (  ) means to play the song again.
- ✓ For each letter name you see, play four eighth notes pizzicato, or substitute a rhythm your teacher gives you.

### Lightly Row

4/4 pizz.

D A 2 D D 3 D A 4 D D

5 A A 6 D D 7 D A 8 D D

O Come Little Children

4/4  
pizz.

1 D D A D 2 A D 3 D D 4 A D

5 A A 6 D G 7 D D 8 A D

Canon in D

This is a multi-rest.  
It means to rest  
for four measures.

Play 5 times

4/4

4

5 D A 6 D A \*

pizz.

7 G D 8 G A \*\* 9 D

If using the bow: \*Stop, Drop, and Roll your bow to the G string. \*\*Stop, Drop, and Roll your bow back to the A.

Unit 1 Practice Assignment

1. Lay your instrument and bow in front of you and sing as many parts of your instrument and bow as you can, using the song “This Is My Violin.”
2. Name the steps to get to playing position.
3. Sing the notes of the Open String Accompaniment songs by memory. Sing four eighth notes for every letter name, keeping a steady beat.
4. After you are allowed to take the instrument home, practice the songs pizzicato. Name three things to check when you are playing pizzicato.
5. Practice your pencil bow hold during commercials each time you watch T.V. Name the steps for placing your hand on the pencil.
6. Watch yourself in the mirror when you practice. Your right arm, the violin, and the bow should make a “square shape.”
7. Practice the Open String Accompaniments with the rhythms you learn in class. Make sure you stay in the middle of the bow, and that the bow is mid-way between the fingerboard and the bridge.

## Student Practice Notes

Good practice habits will be the deciding factor in your success as a young string player. Share the following practice hints with your parents, and ask for their support in your new adventure!

**Practice every day.** 15 minutes of daily practice is far more beneficial than two hours one day a week!

Practice **at the same time** every day. Get into a routine; this is YOUR special time!

Make sure you have **good technique** for playing. Go through the steps to get into playing position. Spend the time to check your: posture; playing position; and pizzicato or bow-hold. Make sure they are correct *before* you begin playing.

Practice carefully. It is best to play the notes and rhythms correctly, so play very slowly when you are first learning something. Be patient, and play through things more than once. Repetition is the key!

Give a concert (not every day☺) when you have accomplished a new song. Invite your family or friends to listen, or set up an audience of stuffed animals. Don't forget to bow!

## Instrument Care Guidelines

- ✓ DO NOT LET OTHERS PLAY YOUR INSTRUMENT
- ✓ Protect your instrument from extreme heat or cold and from sudden changes in temperature. This includes **never** leaving your instrument unattended in a car!
- ✓ Keep your instrument and bow in the case and in a safe place when they are not in use.
- ✓ Your instrument should never go home on a bicycle.
- ✓ Never put your music book or any papers in your case. This could cause the instrument to break or go out of tune.
- ✓ Inspect your bridge often to be sure it is in the correct position. It should stand vertically to the instrument. (The bridge is held in place only by the pressure of the strings - it is **not glued** to the instrument.) Show your teacher if you think the bridge is out of alignment. All bridge adjustments need to be done by a string repair

#### BASS 4

- ✓ Handle your instrument carefully in order to prevent accidental damage and to avoid needless deterioration of the varnish.
- ✓ Keep your instrument free of rosin dust and fingerprints by wiping carefully with a soft cloth.
- ✓ Cover your instrument with a soft cloth when placing it in the case, especially if it does not fit snugly. (You can use the cleaning cloth for this.)
- ✓ **Do not touch the bow hair with the fingers.**
- ✓ Use best quality rosin sparingly.
- ✓ Loosen the hair each time after using the bow.
- ✓ Make sure the case is closed securely before picking it up by the handle.
- ✓ Do not touch the tuning pegs or the fine tuners, as even small adjustments may result in broken strings, misaligned bridge, and/or the sound-post falling.
- ✓ Any maintenance or repair work should be done by an experienced repairperson. The music teacher will arrange all repairs for school owned instruments.
- ✓ Students owning their own violin should have their instruments in good playing condition at all times. The instrument should be equipped with: four fine tuners, rosin, an extra set of strings, a soft cleaning cloth, and a nametag on the case handle.

