

**I know...**

**MUSIC HOUSE**

School of Performing Arts

# **How to play the violin!**



a Suzuki Method approach developed by:  
Music House School of Performing Arts

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# How to Use this Book

2

This book was created by Music House teachers trained in Suzuki method, to help beginning violin students and parents understand and follow the Suzuki Approach.

## ***What is the Suzuki Method?***

"More than fifty years ago, Japanese violinist Shinichi Suzuki realized the implications of the fact that children the world over learn to speak their native language with ease. He began to apply the basic principles of language acquisition to the learning of music, and called his method *the mother-tongue approach*. The ideas of parent responsibility, loving encouragement, constant repetition, etc., are some of the special features of the Suzuki approach." - Suzuki Association of the Americas

## ***The importance of listening***

"Children learn words after hearing them spoken hundreds of times by others. Listening to music every day is important, especially listening to pieces in the Suzuki repertoire so the child knows them immediately" (SAA).

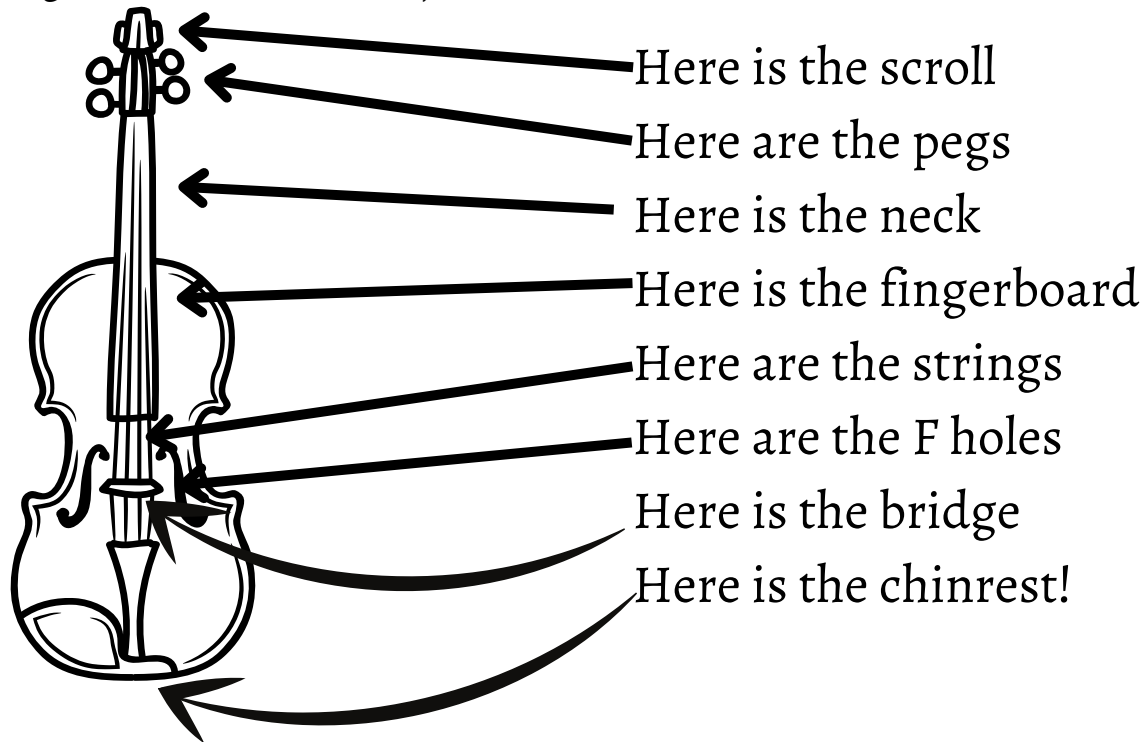
Learn new pieces by listening to the recording first, then try to figure the melody out by ear. The practice tips and games included in this book are for students and parents to work on together; the note names provided in this book are to be used to double check accuracy.

## ***When will I move on to the next book?***

Students typically take a year or more to master the skills detailed within this book. It all depends on your age and frequency of practice! Everyone learns differently :)

# Parts of the violin!

Sing to the tune of A Major scale



# Parts of the bow!

4

Here is the tip

Here is the stick

Here is the winding

Here is the screw

ACTIVITY :)

Draw a star on the thumb spot!

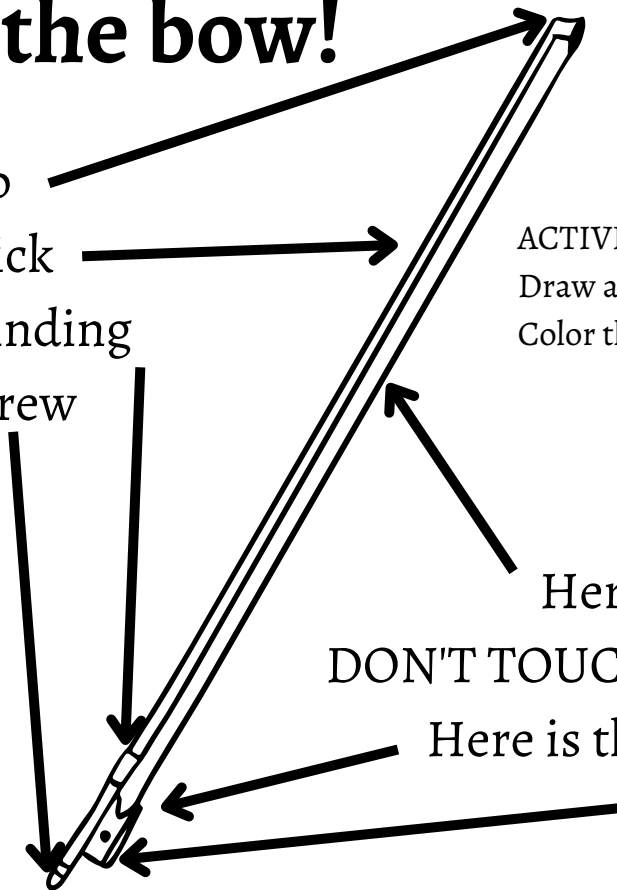
Color the bow hair in RED

Here is the hair...

**DON'T TOUCH THE HAIR!**

Here is the thumb spot

Here is frog



# This is My Violin

Sing to the tune of Lightly Row



This is my violin

This is where I put my chin

E-A-D-G are the four strings

and the F-holes let it ring

Here's the front and here's the back

If I drop it, it will crack!

So I stand in rest position

Close to me, as you can see



**GDAE**

# Rest position

Sing to the tune of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star"

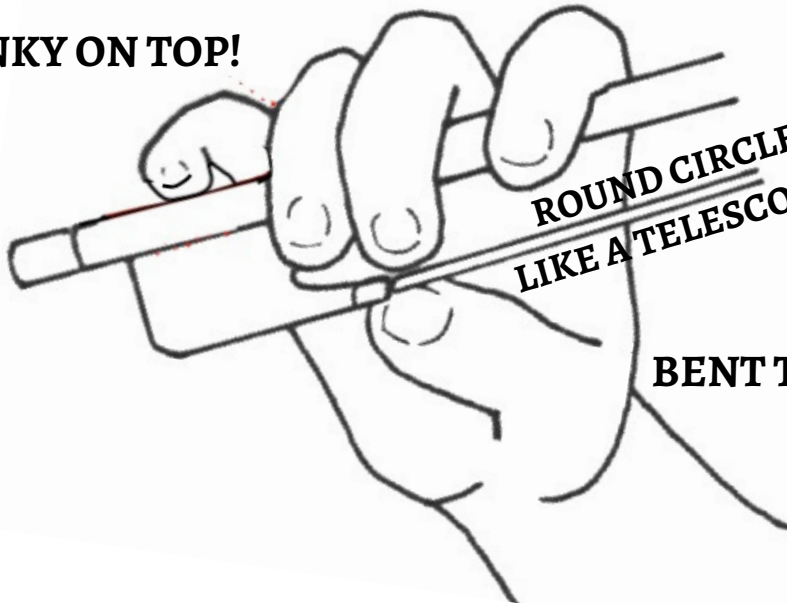


Rest position, feet in line  
Scroll out front, that's mighty fine!  
Check your bridge 'cuz it should be  
Peeking out at you and me.  
Now it's time to take a bow,  
Hi toes, hi toes, hi toes, now.



# The perfect bow hold ✨

**PINKY ON TOP!**



**ROUND CIRCLE  
LIKE A TELESCOPE!**

**BENT THUMB!**



# Think of your fingers as a family at the pool

**Mama just has her feet in the pool!**

Only the top of the pointer finger hangs over the stick of the bow



**Older brother & sister are all the way in the pool!**

Middle and ring fingers hang farther over the stick of the bow



**The baby is too young to swim—don't let him in the pool!**

Pinky stands on top of the bow stick



# Ten Steps to Great Posture!

1. Rest position, feet in line



2. Check your bridge



3. Thumb on the thumb spot



4. Violin + left foot go OUT



5. Upside-down



6. On your head



7. Violin comes down past the ear



8. Violin rests on the left



9. Prep your best bow hold



READY TO GO!



# Playing position checklist

Go through this list in your head before every play!



- Violin on top of left shoulder
- Left thumb on thumb spot
- Beautiful bow hold
- Bow on the correct string, between the stickers
- Eyes on my teacher

## **MASTERY**

- I can move from rest position to playing position *without* my teacher's help!



# Twinkle Variations: level 1

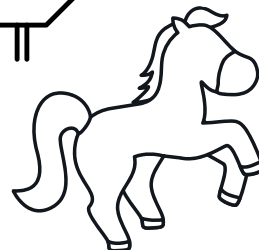
On E and A strings, I know how to play....



Mississippi Stop-stop



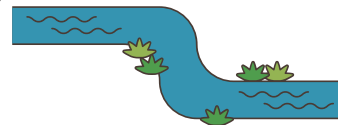
Ice Cream (Sh) Cone



Down-pony Up-pony



Strawberry Blueberry



Mississippi is a River

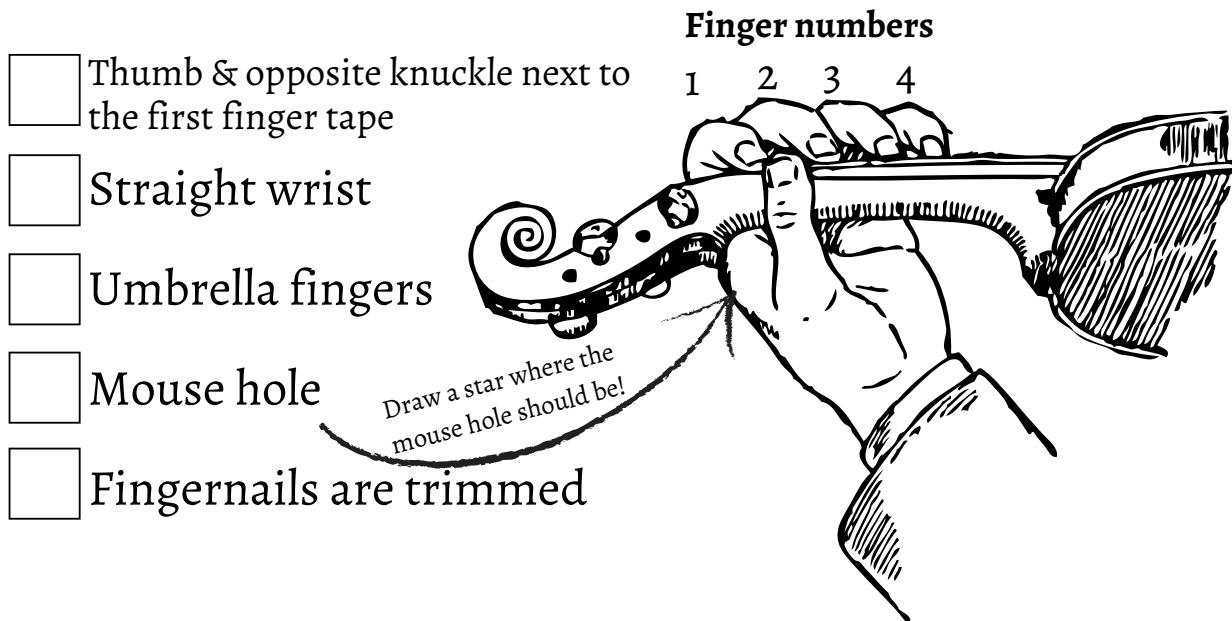


I can play EVERY twinkle rhythm on E

& A strings, without my teacher's help!

# Left hand check!

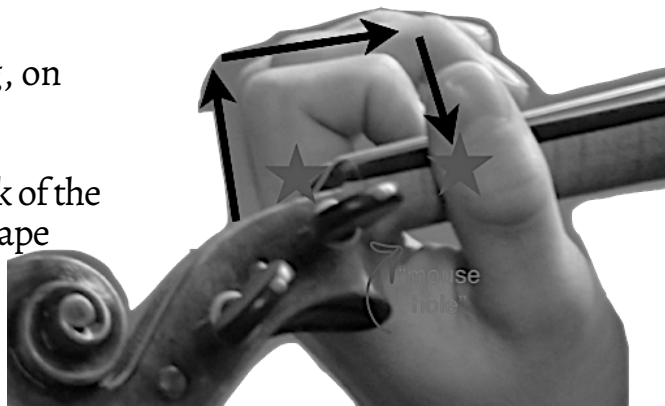
Preparing to play with fingers on the string!



# I know how to play F#!

First finger on the E string

- Finger curls on to string, forming a small tunnel shape
- Tip of finger sinks into the string, on top of the first finger tape
- Thumb touches flat against the neck of the instrument, beside the first finger tape
- Muscles in the hand and arm are relaxed
- Practice 10 finger push-ups every day!





# Flower Song

Mississippi Stop-stop

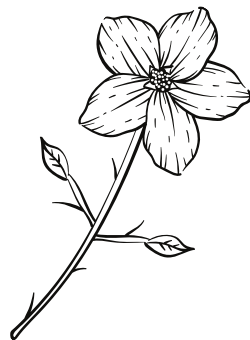


**E** - **F#** - **E** - **A**

○                    1                    ○                    ○



See the pretty flowers  
 Blooming in the garden  
 See the pretty flowers  
 Red and green and purple



# I know... How to practice!

- I roll my bow over from E string to A string
- I keep my left hand in mirror hand position when playing open strings
- I curl my first finger down on to the string when playing F#
- I can keep a good bow hold while playing and stay between the stickers on my bow
- I keep my eyes on my violin
- I can sing and play all of Flower Song without my teacher's help!



# Twinkle Variations: level 2

Practice playing each rhythm on the first 4 notes of twinkle

**A - E - F# - E**  
○ ○ 1 ○

1. Mississippi Stop-stop
2. Ice Cream (sh) Cone
3. Down-pony Up-pony
4. Strawberry Blueberry
5. Mississippi is a River
6. Theme



# 10 fun practice ideas

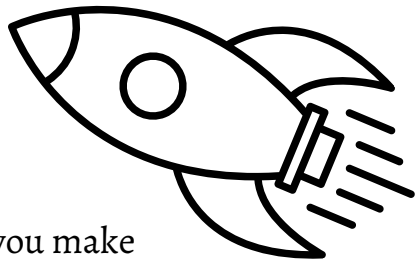


1. Roll a dice to decide which twinkle variation to practice!
2. Roll a dice to decide how many times to play Flower Song
3. Make flashcards and time how quickly you can get through them all!
4. Use your flashcards along with a board game; every time you play what's on the card, you roll the dice then move your game piece!
5. Concert: facetime a friend or family member, or put on a concert for your stuffed animals—wear a fun outfit, practice bowing and walking on/offstage.
6. Practice violin in different parts of the house and see which area sounds the best!
7. Once a song starts to feel easy, try playing it while standing on one leg or walking in a circle.
8. Teach a parent, friend, or sibling the 5 twinkle rhythms, then have them guess which is which!
9. Play along with our tutorial videos! [MusicHouseInc.com](http://MusicHouseInc.com) < Student Resources < Violin Resources < Beginner Tutorial Videos OR Reference recordings
10. Color in one part of a picture for each repetition

# Let's make a perfect bow hold every time!

*10 games that make bow hold practice fun*

1. "Up like a rocket, down like the rain. . ."
2. Bow parade
3. Bow soup - could also do pizza, cookies, etc.
4. Put a penny in a jar for every good bow hold you make
5. Make 5 bow holds during each commercial break when watching TV
6. Itsy bitsy spider crawls
7. Bow olympics: 5 push ups, 5 windshield wipers, 5 pointer finger taps, 5 pinky taps. Shake it out and repeat!
8. Find different objects throughout your house that you can use to make a bow hold! ex: pencil, straw, twig, toothbrush
9. Try using a violin bow hold to hold your toothbrush when you brush your teeth!
10. Teach a trusted friend or family member how to make a bow hold!

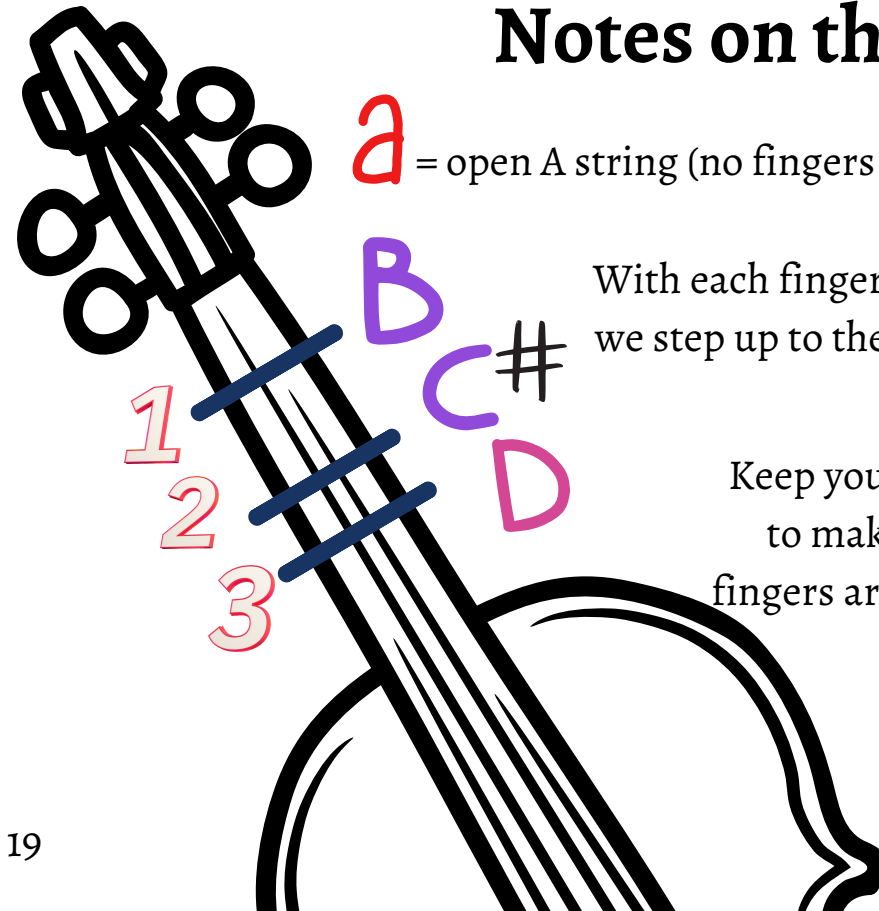


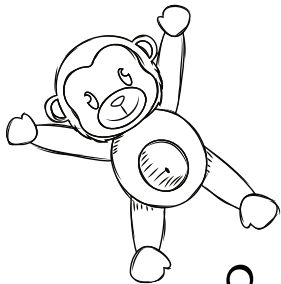
# Notes on the A-string

**a** = open A string (no fingers down)

With each finger added to the string,  
we step up to the next highest note!

Keep your eyes on your violin  
to make sure your bow and  
fingers are in the correct spot!





# Monkey Song

Mississippi Stop-stop



<sup>0</sup>**A** - <sup>1</sup>**B** - <sup>2</sup>**C#** - <sup>3</sup>**D**

<sup>3</sup>**D** - <sup>2</sup>**C#** - <sup>1</sup>**B** - <sup>0</sup>**A**

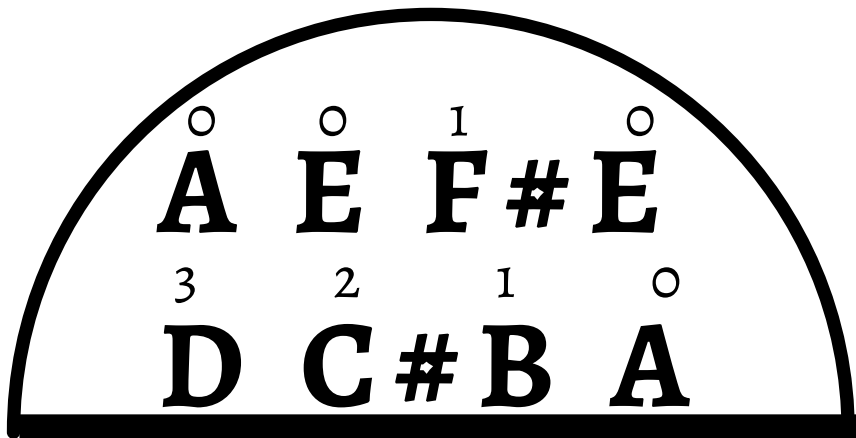
I'm a little monkey  
climbing up the ladder  
climbing up so high to  
get my \_\_\_\_\_ banana

I'm a little monkey  
climbing down the ladder  
climbing down so low to  
eat my \_\_\_\_\_ banana

# Twinkle Variations: level 3

## Twinkle Bread

Practice playing each rhythm on the first 8 notes of twinkle

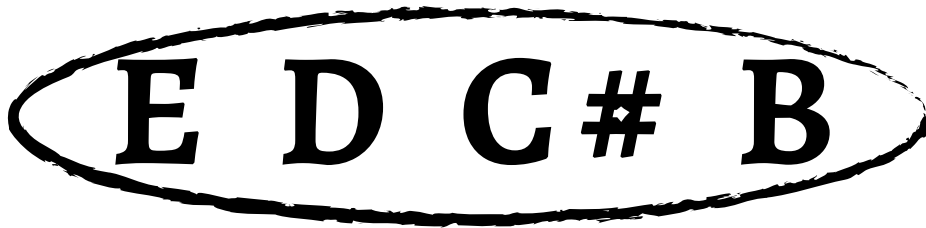


# Twinkle Variations: level 4

22

## *The Inside*

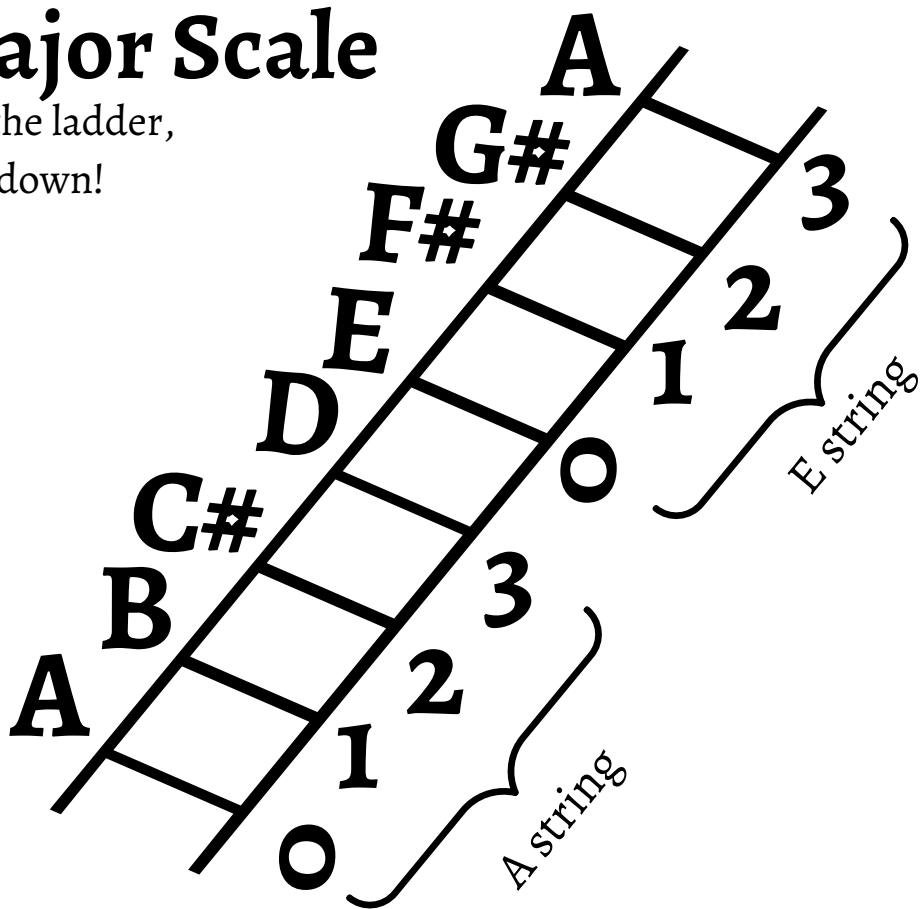
Fill in the blanks with the corresponding finger numbers!



— — — —

# A Major Scale

Climb up the ladder,  
then back down!

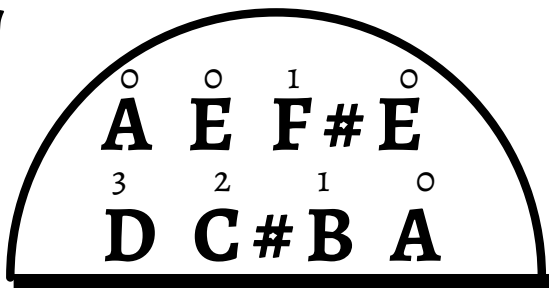




- I can sing all the notes of A Major scale while placing my fingers on the string
- I can play all of A Major scale with Mississippi Stop-stop on each note
- Half notes — Long, slow bows
- Quarter Notes — Smooth bows
- Eighth Notes — Small bows, in the middle
- I play through A Major scale as a warm-up every time I practice !

# Twinkle Variations: level 5

*Whole Song*

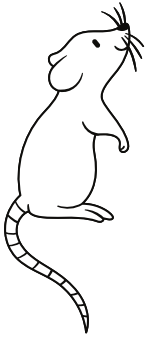


# Twinkle Variations Level 6: Mastery

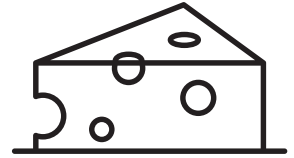
26

*"Knowledge is not skill. Knowledge plus ten thousand times is skill"*  
*-Dr. Suzuki*

- Variation A: Mississippi Stop-stop
- Variation B: Ice Cream (Sh) Cone
- Variation C: Down-pony Up-pony
- Variation D: Strawberry Blueberry
- Variation E: Mississippi is a River
- Theme



# Lightly Row



Hello mouse, in your house,  
I am walking up your stairs.

Hello mouse-y, in your house-y,  
open up and let me in!

Won't you let me eat your cheese?  
On your sofa, pretty please?

Hello mouse-y, in your house-y,  
open up and let me in!

# Lightly Row

28

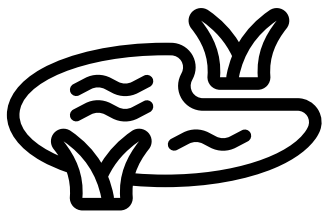
E C # C \_ D B B \_ A B C # D E E E \_

E C # C C D B B B A C # E E C # C C \_

B B B B B C # D \_ C # C C C C D E \_

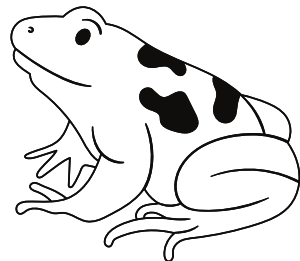
E C # C C D B B B A C # E E C # C C \_

- Practice the first three notes TEN times, pausing before playing C# to place your second finger on the tape and roll your bow over to the A string
- Find the scale in line 1, then circle it in RED
- Find the arpeggio in line 2 and circle it in BLUE. Then play the end of line 2 TEN times
- Practice line 3 TEN times. Count to 5 in your head for the repeated notes



# Song of the Wind

AKA "Froggy Pond"



I am walking up your stairs to  
visit froggy pond! (jump)  
visit froggy pond! (jump)

He is *green* and has big *ears* and  
eyeballs to the sea and back (jump)  
He is *orange* and has big *horns* and  
eyeballs on his toes! (jump)

# Song of the Wind

30

ABC#D EEEE

on E string  
F#33F#E\_ (lift!) F#33F#E\_ (lift!)  
on A string

EDDDD C#CCC BBB AC#E (lift!)

EDDDD C#CCC BBB A\_ (lift!) *Repeat the whole song!*

Sing, then play "F33FE" TEN times! Remember: the first 3 is third finger A string (D), then we hop that third finger to E string for the next note (high A!)

Practice the first half of the song FIVE times

Sing, then play the second half of the song THREE times! Try to sing the words in your head while you play to keep track of the repeated notes



# Go Tell Aunt Rhody

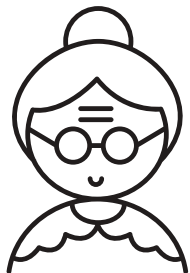


Go tell Aunt Rhody, John is very sick  
Please tell Aunt Rhody, John is sick in bed.

He ate some ice cream, and some jelly beans,  
and chocolate syrup on his bread!

Go tell Aunt Rhody, John is very sick  
Please tell Aunt Rhody, John is sick in bed.





# Go Tell Aunt Rhody

32

C# CB A A    B B C#B A  
E ED C# C    BABC# A\_

C# CD E E    F# F ED C#  
C# CD E E    F# F E\_

C# CB A A    B B C#B A  
E ED C# C    BABC# A\_

Play "BABC#A" FIVE times, then play the whole first line THREE times

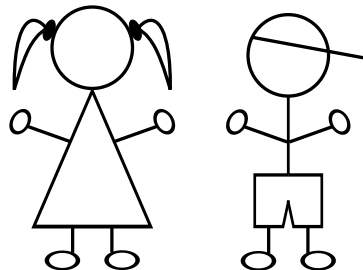
Play through line three FIVE times, making sure to have your third finger prepped and ready to go for a fast string change on "F#F EDC#"

Play through the entire song THREE times!

# O' Come Little Children

Air bowing game

*Up down, little children,  
Up down, then we STOP.*



Make a beautiful bow hold, then sing these words to the tune of the song, moving your bow up and down as if you're playing an invisible violin.

Make sure to start and end each line with an UP bow!

# O' Come Little Children

E E C# E E C# E D B B C#

E E C# E E C# E D B B C#

C# B B B D D D C# C C F#

F# E E E <sup>High A</sup> 3 E C# D B B A

on E string

These are the symbols for bow direction used for all types of string instruments! Mark these symbols above each note that corresponds with "up down" in the song!



= Up bow



= Down bow

# May Song

*Have you heard the May birdies sing? Listen to their voices.  
Singing, chirping, ever so loud! Singing, chirping, ever so soft.  
Have you heard the May birdies sing? Listen to their voices.*

High A

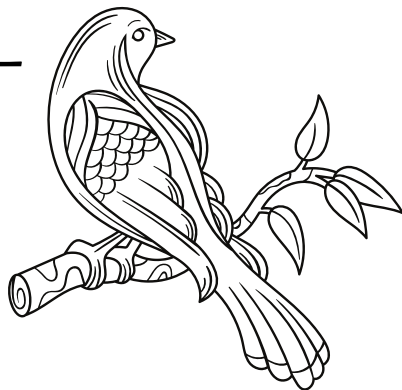
A\_ C# E 3 F# 3 F E\_  
D\_ E C# A B\_ A\_

(LOUD)

(soft)

EE DD C# EC B\_  
EE DD C# EC B\_

A\_ C# E 3 F# 3 F E\_  
D\_ E C# A B\_ A\_



# Long, Long Ago

*Long, long ago on a bright sunny day, I saw a frog, on TOP a log.*

*Long, long ago on a bright sunny day, I saw a frog on a log.*

*He jumped so high that I thought he could fly (x2)*

*Long, long ago on a bright sunny day, I saw a frog on a log.*



A AB C# CD E F# E C \_  
E DC# B \_ D C# B A \_

A AB C# CD E F# E C# \_  
E DC# B C# B A \_

(LOUD) E DC# B ee D C# B A \_  
(soft) E DC# B ee D C# B A \_

A AB C# CD E F# E C# \_  
E DC# B C# B A \_

# D Major Scale

Same as A Major Scale, just one string lower!



0 1 2 3 0 1 2 3  
D E F# G A B C# D



D C# B A G F# E D  
3 2 1 0 3 2 1 0

Play this scale as a warm-up every time you practice:

1. Half Notes; long, slow bows



2. Quarter notes



3. Eighth notes; small bows, in the middle



4. Sixteenth notes; tiny bows in the upper-middle  
(between your twinkle tapes!)



# Allegro



← Fermata: the musical symbol for stretching something out

*Head head, ears ears, shoulders shoulders, nose nose  
waist waist, knees knees, ankles ankle, toes (clap!)*

*Head head, ears ears, shoulders shoulders, nose nose  
waist waist, knees knees, ankles ankle, toes (clap!)*

*Lightly swaying, lightly swaying,  
as the music gently flows...*

*Head head, ears ears, shoulders shoulders, nose nose  
waist waist, knees knees, ankles ankle, toes (clap!)*



33 EE F#G#3F EE DD C#C BABC# A\_

High A

33 EE F#G#3F EE DD C#C BABC# A\_

*Slow down and watch your teacher!*



F#FEA F#FEA **F#G#3F# EC#B\_\_**

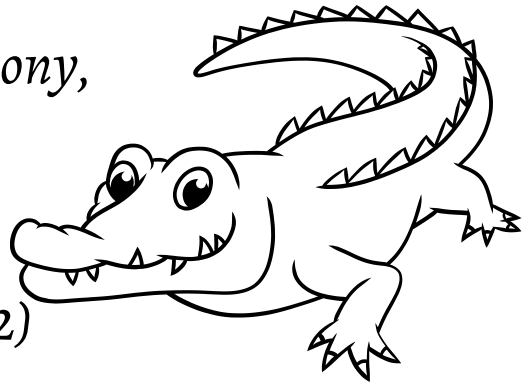
33 EE F#G#3F EE DD C#C BABC# A\_

# Perpetual Motion

*Have you seen an alligator, riding up an escalator?  
Have you seen an alligator, riding down an elevator?*

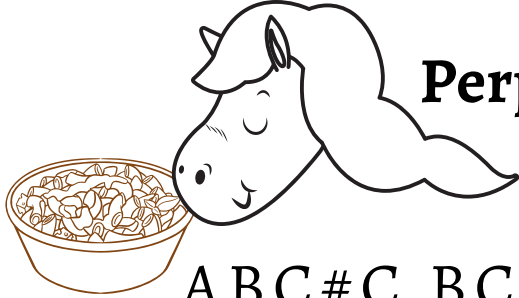
*Have you seen a bright pink pony,  
eating lots of macaroni? (x2)*

*Have you seen an armadillo,  
sleeping on top of a pillow? (x2)*

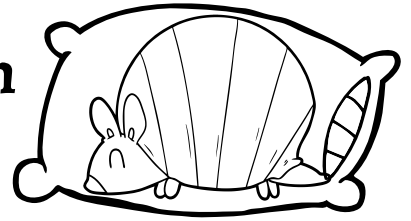


*Have you seen an alligator, riding up an escalator?  
Have you seen an alligator, riding down an elevator?*





# Perpetual Motion



ABC#C BC#DD C#DEC DBEE  
ABC#C BC#DD C#DEC DBAA

AG#F#F G#F#EE F#EDD C#BEE  
AG#F#F G#F#EE F#EDD C#BAA

C#ABB DBC#C EC#DE F#G#33  
C#ABB DBC#C EC#DE F#G#33

ABC#C BC#DD C#DEC DBEE  
ABC#C BC#DD C#DEC DBAA

# Skills Check-In: Posture & Technique

- Bow Arm: Relaxed bow hold; bow arm moves from the elbow in the upper-half
- Violin Position/Left Hand: Violin supported by the head and shoulder; relaxed left hand, wrist, and thumb
- Ear Training: Can identify same/different, higher/lower pitches; Can identify skips vs. steps; Can recognize patterns in music (scales, arpeggios); Listens to recordings every day!
- Knows all the note names on A and E strings; left hand plays with tall round fingers and accurate finger placement; keeps fingernails trimmed\*\*\*
-

# Skills Check-In: Repertoire & Method

- Student is able to identify and sing along to any piece from Book 1;
- Student is able to play all pieces from this book by memory
- Student maintains a consistent practice schedule\*\*\*
- Student is able to play all pieces from this book from memory
- Student, parent, and teacher understand the Suzuki Methodology and work together as a team to solve problems, build skills, and most importantly, have fun!\*\*\*

# This book belongs to:



Violin Resource  
Page

**MUSIC HOUSE**  
School of Performing Arts



Violin Reference  
Recordings