

# ETLING STRING CLASS METHOD, Book 1

Forest R. Etling

LESSON	PARTS	PIANO	TEACHER'S MANUAL
1	6		5
2	7		6
3	7		6
4	7		6
5	8	1	7
6	8		7
7	9		8
8	10		9
9	11		10
10	11		10
11	11		10
12	12		11
13	13		11
14	14		12
15	15		13
16	16	4	14
17	17	6	15
18	17		15

LESSON	PARTS	PIANO	TEACHER'S MANUAL
19	20		18
20	21		19
21	21	12	19
22	22	13	20
23	23, 24, 25	14	21
24	26, 27		22
25	28, 29		23
26	30		24
27	31, 32		25
28	33		27
29	34, 35		28
30	36, 37		30
31	38, 39		32
32	40, 41		34
33	42, 43	7, 8, 9	36
34	44, 45		38
35	46	10, 11	40
36	47, 48	12, 13, 14	41



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## Parents . . .

Membership in the school orchestra program is an exciting new adventure for your child. It is our desire to do all that we can to make this a gratifying and worthwhile experience. However, we will need your help.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD

1. Provide him with as good an instrument as you can reasonably afford.
2. Provide a safe place to keep the instrument.
3. Arrange a regular time for him to practice and see that he sticks to it. Parents need to do this most of all. Daily practice is the element...same time, same place...but daily.
4. Recognize that most students do not practice on their own...they usually have to be reminded.
5. A room with good light and a music stand is necessary.
6. Make certain that brothers and sisters are away from the student during the practice period.
7. Arrange the practice schedule so that it does not conflict with outdoor play, a favorite TV program, or household duties.
8. First year students are encouraged to practice 20 minutes daily, while older students are expected to practice at least three and a half hours a week.
9. Show an interest in his practice, study, and orchestra membership.
10. Be generous in your praise and encouragement.
11. Never make fun of the strange sounds that he may produce.
12. Help him to remember his music and instrument on lesson days.
13. Insist upon faithful attendance at his lessons, rehearsals, and concerts.

Three ingredients...parents-pupils-teachers,  
all working together...are necessary for musical  
success.



## Orchestra Members . . .

### A GOOD ORCHESTRA MEMBER

1. Practices 30 minutes daily.  
(A lesser amount for those who study piano, also)
2. Remembers to bring his instrument and music to school on orchestra days.
3. Is proud of his instrument and is responsible for its care.
  - A. Dusts it daily
  - B. Rosins the bow daily
  - C. Remembers to never touch the bow hair
4. Takes pride in good position and posture.
5. Takes good care of his Solo Book and Workbook.
6. Values his orchestra membership and keeps his classroom work up to date.



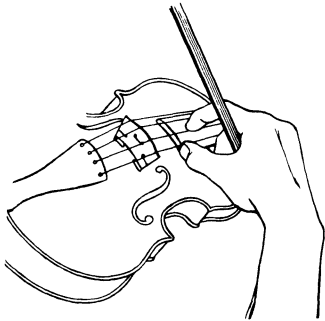
### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. Each violinist and violist should have a fully equipped, well-adjusted outfit with adjustable pad, string adjusters, and cake of inexpensive but good rosin. Cello and bass players should also be comparably well-equipped.
2. Each student should practice at least 30 minutes daily.
3. Each student should have an adjustable music stand.
4. The violin and bow should be kept in the case when not in use.
5. The fingers should not touch the bow hair.
6. Loosen the bow hair after playing...just enough to take the tension off of the stick.
7. To play, tighten the hair enough to have clearance for the width of a pencil.
8. The bow must be rosined for every practice session.
9. Wipe the rosin dust from the instrument and strings with a soft cloth daily. Carry a 12" X 12" cleaning cloth in the case at all times.
10. Keep the instrument away from heat, radiators, excessively hot sun, excessive cold or quick changes in temperature.
11. When repairs are needed, have your teacher suggest a qualified repairman.
12. A new violin outfit is generally much better than an old outfit. However, good adjustment...such as properly fitted pegs and a well-fitted bridge...are most important for all instruments.

## VIOLIN – VIOLA

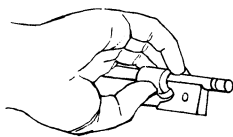
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### THE INSTRUMENT AND BOW



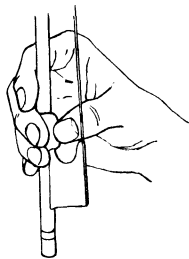
#### Pizzicato

Place the tip of the right thumb on the corner of the fingerboard.  
Pluck the string sideways with the first finger about an inch from the end of the fingerboard.



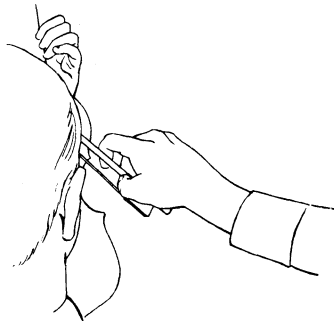
# 2

Notice the curved thumb and the curved little finger.



# 1

The tip of the curved thumb is on the stick or thumb grip next to the frog.  
The curved thumb touches the side of the hair near the frog.  
The second finger is opposite the curved thumb.  
The first finger rests on top of the stick between the 1st and 2nd joints.  
The little finger, also curved, rests on top of the stick.



# 3

The thumb is opposite the second finger, forming a circle.  
The first finger rests on the stick between the 1st and 2nd joints.

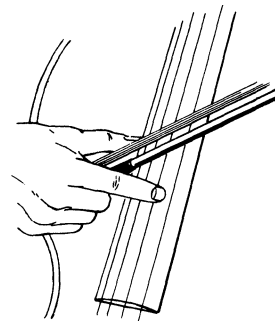
## CELLO – BASS

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### THE INSTRUMENT AND BOW

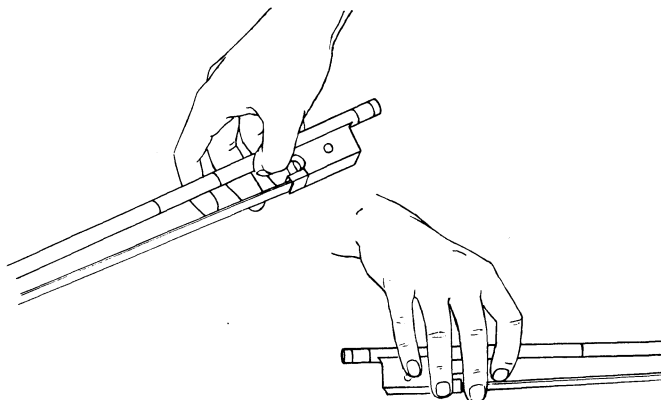
#### Pizzicato

Rest the right thumb against the edge of the fingerboard.  
Pluck the string sideways with the first finger.



# 1

Place the tip of the slightly curved thumb on the stick near the frog.  
The second finger should be opposite the thumb.  
The first finger rests on the stick at the first joint.



# 2

The little finger rests on the side of the frog.