

Beginning Orchestra

Syllabus

musicfirst

Beginning Orchestra

by Dan Schultz

The MusicFirst Beginning Orchestra course is designed to provide music educators with a model for how to utilize the MusicFirst Classroom in an elementary or middle school orchestra setting. Course material is designed to be used as a general framework over an entire school year in conjunction with **your choice of concert repertoire and technique method**.

This Beginning Orchestra course is intended for use in-class with students, for integrating technology into your orchestra program in a comprehensive manner, providing a broad scope of learning activities toward creating, performing, responding and connecting. Some included assessments are automatically graded, and other assessments will require review, response, and possible re-submission. Feel free to customize as you desire. PracticeFirst includes an ever expanding library to meet the needs of deeper performance literature.

There are ten distinct topics that are relevant to a beginning string program covered in this class - each with its own distinct set of tasks and assessments. These topics have been separated into categories including: Instrument Care, Scales & Technique, Notation Reading, Music Theory, Critique, Improvisation, Composition, Ear Training, Sight Reading, Alternative Orchestra Styles, Fingering Quizzes, and Performance Assessments.

Before assigning lessons, tasks or assessments, please preview in both the teacher view and in the student view.

- If there are issues, glitches or errors, please report to support@musicfirst.com.
- Many lessons contain links outside of MusicFirst. The links have been tested but cannot be guaranteed over time to function as originally designed.
- Please use the “reuse” tab to copy and customize the lessons to meet the needs of your students.
- Some lessons were designed with alternatives to PracticeFirst, Noteflight, and Sight Reading Factory, and some lessons are designed to not require additional software.
- The PracticeFirst assessments in this lesson were created in Noteflight and the data was transferred as XML files. Should you need to modify the lesson to make it easier or more challenging, please feel free to use the existing ideas as a guideline and share your content within the MusicFirst community.
- Some lessons may use a combination Cello/String Bass line. PracticeFirst will accommodate any octave displacement.
- We strongly recommend adding PracticeFirst software and your preferred string method book to your MusicFirst subscription.

Beginning Orchestra

Detailed Outline

Course Information & Tips (TEACHER ONLY)

Getting Started

Getting Started with MusicFirst for Students
Getting Started Quiz
Focus On Sound: Orchestra
Getting Started with PracticeFirst
Getting Started with Sight Reading Factory
Getting Started with Noteflight
Getting Started with Flat
How To Practice

Instrument Care

Applying rosin to your bow
Tuning with fine tuners and pegs
Cleaning a stringed instrument
Using Shoulder Rests

Notation Reading

Music Theory for Violin: Reading Notes on the Treble Staff
Music Theory for Viola: Reading Notes on the Alto Clef
Music Theory for Cello & Bass: Reading Notes on the Bass Staff
Treble Note Naming
Alto Note Naming
Bass Note Naming

String Fingering Charts

Violin Fingering Chart
Viola Fingering Chart
Cello Fingering Chart
String Bass Fingering Chart

Music Theory

Music Theory 1.1: Reading (Counting and Performing) Whole, Half, Quarter and Eighth Notes and Rests in 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4 time.

Basic Music Symbols

Music Symbols Quiz

Major Key Signatures - Treble & Bass

Music Theory 1.6: Ledger Lines

PracticeFirst Performance Assessments

D Major Scale Practice First

PracticeFirst Performance Etudes

Fingering Quizzes

Violin Fingering Quiz 1

Viola Fingering Quiz 1

Cello Fingering Quiz 1

Bass Fingering Quiz 1

Scales & Technique

Left hand instrument hold, violin and viola

Right hand: Balance point bow hold

Fingering patterns

D Major Scale & Arpeggio

B Minor Scale & Hooked Bows

G Major Scale & Arpeggio

G Major Scale & Arpeggio with Slurs

String Crossing

Scale Game Level 2 - C and G

Sight Reading

Sight reading duple rhythms on neutral pitch

Sight reading duple rhythm with melody

Getting Started with Sight Reading Factory

Sight Reading Factory Level 2: G Major

Sight reading factory, D Major, Level 1 Unison

Ear Training

Interval Studies in D Major

Interval Studies in G Major

Music Theory 5.3: Intervals - 4ths & 5ths; Interval Inversion

Music Theory 5.2: Intervals - Major & minor 3rds

Critique

Individual Performance Assessments

Group Performance Critique Template

Concert Reflections

Critique the tone of this viola

Weekly practice journal

Improvisation

Improvisation styles for strings

Improvisation: Lesson 1- Call and Response

Alternative Orchestra Styles

String instruments in popular styles

Jazz styles for strings

Bluegrass styles

Composition in Orchestra

Composing for Orchestra 1

Composing for Orchestra 2

Composing with Stepwise Motion

Create alternate endings

Variations on Hot Cross Buns