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GETTING STARTED

0  The open Strings on the Cello

Reading music for the cello is easy!
The open strings are in convenient positions of the stave,
 easy to remember:

The A (1) is on the top line.
The D (2) is on the middle line.
The G (3) is on the bottom line.
The C (4) is underneath the stave.

Keeping the NAMES OF THE STRINGS in mind:

A  Dear  Giant  Cello
or
All  Drivers  Go  Crazy

The 2 BOW DIRECTIONS:

The bow has two ends.
The one end is called the “Nut” or “Frog”.
The other end is called the “Tip”.

When we start from the nut we call it “down bow” (because of the violin!)
the sign symbolises the square end:  ▼

When we start from the tip we call it “up bow”, the sign is a pointy tip:

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“One, two, three, four, One”

* These notes are called “crotchets” or 1/4 notes; they are one beat long, a quarter of a 4/4 bar.

* Next to the bass clef we find a “C”. The “C” stands for ‘C’ommon beat, which is a bar with 4 beats, also called 4/4.

In the same way as we measure the sounding notes in beats, we measure the silence between the notes in beats as well. The silent beats are called “rests”.
Below are the rests with a length of one and two beats:

**Rests:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(1 beat rest)</th>
<th>(2 beats rest)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a crotchet or 1/4 rest)</td>
<td>(a minim or 1/2 rest)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Count the numbers of the beat loudly: 1, 2, 3, 4, 1 - and whisper the beats during the rests - 2, 3, 4
* Start every new string with a “Down bow” ( ▲ )

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"Minim" or "half note" has 2 beats.
To make a good sound consider that every string needs a different amount of bow:
* The A string is thin and needs to be played lightly, not too slow.
* The D string take a bit heavier.
* The G string needs some weight and be taken slower.
* The C string play very slow and heavy, especially start slow.

Don’t try to rush to the end of the bow, but stop where it naturally stops.
The bow needs to be played 100% straight and slightly tilted inwards.
Try out, on which spot of the string it sounds best.

Accompaniment to 1 & 2
(too advanced for students at this level)
The Fingers of the left Hand

The fingers of the left hand are numbered without counting the thumb, who has its own sign.

Technique of the left hand:

* Put the thumb underneath the second finger
* The wrist needs to be straight.
  (A bend in the wrist makes the action of the fingers less effective)
* Naturally the 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 3\textsuperscript{rd} finger stand more upright whereas the 1\textsuperscript{st} and the 4\textsuperscript{th} finger play flatter.

3     Rain, Rain, go away     traditional
(pizzicato = plucked)

* Put the 1\textsuperscript{st} and 4\textsuperscript{th} finger on the stars (if you have any).
* Compare the 4\textsuperscript{th} finger on the A string (note d) with the open D string. The open D string will vibrate, when the 4\textsuperscript{th} finger on the A string is well in tune.
* Stretch the 4\textsuperscript{th} finger each time far enough.
* Push the fingers firmly down until the sound is clear.

3 a  Accompaniment to “Rain, Rain go away”

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