

Suzuki Bk. 5 – 8 Highlights
Technical teaching points
Rebecca Henry

BOOK 5

By now a student would be doing multiple Warm-Ups for both hands (shifting, vibrato, bow strokes, flexibility, facility, etc.). Each piece has opportunities to work on phrasing and style. Learn martelé/détaché for clear bow distribution when first learning, then gradually lighten up the bow strokes depending on the student's age and sophistication. Isolate all shifts (guide notes). Scales, arpeggios and pattern work for intonation.

Scales/Etudes

- Barber: Scales for Advanced Violinists (3 octave scales/arpeggios with 2 octave scales in double stops)
- Wohlfahrt Op. 45 Bk. 1, and maybe starting Bk. 2
 - o Next: Whistler, Preparing for Kreutzer
- Whistler: Introducing the Positions, Vol. 1 (but adding 2nd pos. C scale)
- Trott: Melodious Double Stops

Bach Gavotte

- Bow distribution
- Separate bow string crossings using forearm and wrist (Up/down)
- Pre-collé exercises on the string (Mini-Martelé cycle)
- Chords: 2+2, set bow straight at tip.
- Possibly add double stops
- Phrasing, style

Vivaldi G minor Concerto, I

- Bow distribution (WB ½ ½; Fast down and slow up, etc.)
- String crossings and 6ths
- Tapering
- Trills
- Duple to triple rhythm change.
- Sequences

Vivaldi G minor Concerto, II

- Various fingering options
- Expression, phrasing, tapering
- Bow speed control
- Shifts, extensions
- Vibrato

Vivaldi G minor Concerto, III

- More trills and triplets
- Quick position changes, including 2nd pos.
- Bow distribution
- Martelé and style
- Memory

Country Dance

- Up-bow staccato, practiced Finger Before Bow (FBB)
- Guide notes to 5th position
- Part B jumping shifts.

German Dance

- Bow stroke at the frog
- Clear style differences

Veracini Gigue

- Bow stroke, continued, with light up bow
- Separate/Slur/Staccato
- Double stops
- Chords

BOOK 6

La Folia

- Vibrato
- Phrasing
- Each section has a bow stroke that is repeated. Good review.
- Discovering the melody in each variation
- Play the harmonic progression for them, and play the melody along with each variation
- Rhythm challenges.
- Flicking the wrist
- Noodles
- Runs
- Theme and Variation/Passacaglia form
- Clarify character and sound world of each section
- Cueing transitions

Handel Sonata in F, 1

- Shifting, phrasing

Handel Sonata in F, 2

- Bow strokes.
- Bariolage (separates)
- Pacing cresc.

Fiocco Allegro

- Balance point
- Crossings.
- Slurs at frog, then travel
- Mordents on the beat as a triplet.

Rameau Gavotte

- Style
- Up bow staccato (later offish)

Handel Sonata – I teach this later.

BOOK 7

Bach Concerto No. 1, Galamian Edition

First mvt.

- Bow distribution and travel bows
- Beats are heavy, off-beats are light (even if longer)
- Finding arpeggios and tuning
- Dynamics in sequences
- Intonation (1/2 position, runs, etc.)

Second mvt.

- Bow control and beauty of tone
- Gentle hooks
- Long lines
- Entrances – tapering or going into the orchestra

Third mvt.

- Hooked bowing; lilt
- Isolate all 16th note sections.
- Arpeggios and intonation – note sequences
- Bariolage (See VP Practice Pages)

BOOK 8

Eccles Sonata in G minor

1st Mvt.

- Breathing, cueing
- Pickups and ties
- Creating long phrases
- Bow control
- Color

2nd Mvt.

- Pickups and Chords
- Tapering
- Strokes

Gretry Tambourin

- Nice review for clarity of sound, strokes, style, intonation.

Students need much more at this point before moving into Mozart or other major concerti and repertoire.

See Repertoire chart for Supplemental repertoire