

Suzuki Book I, Twinkle through Perpetual Motion

General goals and skills

Jim Przygocki

Set-up, set-up, set-up!

- Body alignment and balance
- Feet-hips-shoulders
- Freedom movement

Instrument support

- Well supported and secure
- Proper alignment of feet, left elbow, instrument, head: 'strings, nose, elbow, toes!'
- Placement on collarbone
- Shoulders, neck and arms are free
- Weight of the head supports the instrument
- Left hand supports the instrument

Left hand position

- Correct thumb and hand height and placement, 'Magic X' placement
- Soft left hand, lose thumb, no squeezing
- Wrist is back and open
- Turn/rotate the hand: fingers hover above the strings

Fingering, finger patterns, left hand habits

- 1 2 3 4 finger pattern
- Use of 4th finger
- Block fingering
- Independent fingering
- Leaving fingers down when appropriate

Bow hand and bow arm

- Shape, finger placement, balance, flexibility
- "Beginner" bow hand
- "Adult" hand
- Awareness and flexibility in joints and fingers
- Bow arm motions – Upper half
 - Forearm/Elbow
 - Wrist and fingers
 - From 'the square' to the tip
- Bow arm motions – Lower half
 - Upper arm/shoulder socket
 - Wrist and fingers
 - From 'the square' to the frog
 - Tilt at the frog

Bow strokes and bowings

- Martelé, détaché and legato
- Basic bow distribution, using whole and half bows

Tone production

- Good use of arm weight
- Awareness of and control of bow speed
- Appropriate contact point for a strong sound

Intonation

- Singing
- Matching pitch with piano, other violins
- Can adjust pitch
- Fitting into a chord

Music reading skills

- Rote learning ('ear to hand'), imitation and audiation
- Pitch
 - Concepts of higher/lower: in pitch, on the staff, on the fingerboard
 - Note names under the fingers
 - Begin note reading on the staff
- Pulse
 - Can walk a beat
 - Can clap and/or play rhythms to a steady pulse
- Rhythm
 - Identify and speak rhythms using Kodály syllables
 - Half, quarter, dotted quarter 8th, 16th notes
- Tracking – can track music on the staff as it is being played

Other musical skills

- Understanding of form
- Connection to their own sound
- Basics of dynamics
- Good practice habits
- Beginning ensemble skills