

# Violin Playing Is Fun



**Clifton**  
FINEST MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

# Violin

## Playing Is Fun!



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Edited by Gerhard Hiebl

Playing the violin - made easy.  
The audio files make it possible!

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# Foreword

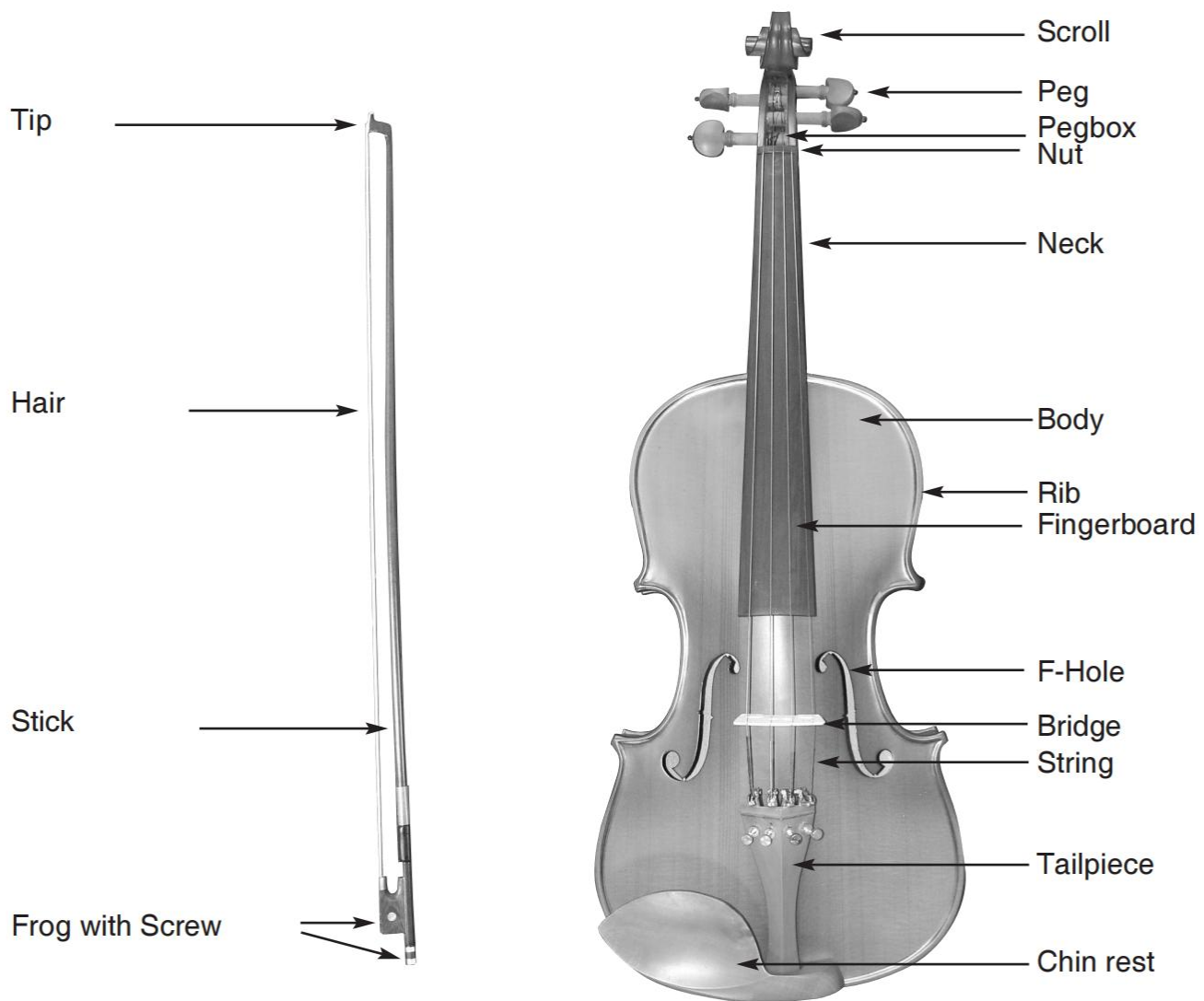
With this book and with the audio files, we want to give you a little insight into the important basics of violin playing. This is not a traditional violin teaching book, neither is it intended to replace violin lessons, we just want to give you a good start for the violin playing.

About the audio files:

You can listen to the songs first, practice them and then play along with them by following the play-along version.

And always remember: **No one is a born master!** With a little patience and practice, you will soon be able to play the first song!

## Knowing your violin

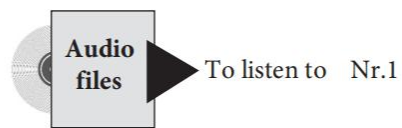


## Tuning

In order to play songs on the violin, you need to tune the violin first.

In the audio files all 4 strings are played one after the other.

Listen to the audio files, and start tuning on the A string.



## Posture

Maintain a relaxed basic posture.

Stand straight with the feet about shoulder-width apart.

Both shoulders should be relaxedly falling.



## Holding the violin

Put the violin on your left shoulder and turn your head slightly to the left, so that your chin can rest on the chinrest of the violin. Make sure that the violin is held horizontally.



## The left hand

The violin is essentially held between the thumb and the base joint of the index finger. The hand is turned slightly inwards. The fingers are bent roundly to place on the strings.



## The fingering

Each finger of the left hand is assigned a number:

0 = Open string  
1 = Index finger  
2 = Middle finger  
3 = Ring finger  
4 = Pinkie finger

Unlike the guitar, the violin does not have frets, and you have to play different tones by placing your fingers at different positions on the violin neck.



The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a sequence of notes with corresponding fingering instructions written below them. The notes are quarter notes, and the fingering instructions use numbers 0-4 and arrows indicating finger placement (up for bowing, down for plucking).

Staff 1: 0 1.F.↓ 1.F.↑ 2.F.↓ 2.F.↑ 3.F. 4.F. 0 1.F.↓ 1.F.↑ 2.F.↓ 2.F.↑ 3.F. 4.F. 0 1.F.↓

Staff 2: 1.F.↑ 2.F.↓ 2.F.↑ 3.F. 4.F. 0 1.F.↓ 1.F.↑ 2.F.↓ 2.F.↑ 3.F. 4.F. 4.F. 3.F. 2.F.↑

Staff 3: 2.F.↓ 1.F.↑ 1.F.↓ 0 4.F. 3.F. 2.F.↑ 2.F.↓ 1.F.↑ 1.F.↓ 0 4.F. 3.F. 2.F.↑ 2.F.↓ 1.F.↑

Staff 4: 1.F.↓ 0 4.F. 3.F. 2.F.↑ 2.F.↓ 1.F.↑ 1.F.↓ 0

### NOTE:

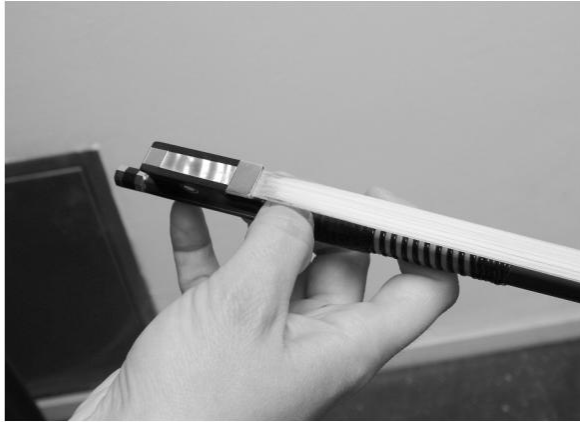
When playing violin, you need to place your left hand fingers firmly on the strings! However, the finger pressure applied on the strings should not cause pain in fingers or hand!



## The right hand

Use your right hand to hold the bow, and the bow is held loosely between the thumb and middle finger.

These two fingers form a ring. The other fingers are laid roundly over the bow stick.



## How to use the bow

When playing, it is important that the bow is always parallel to the bridge.

The position where the bow touches the string should be about at the middle between the end of the fingerboard and the bridge.

In order to achieve this parallel bowing, the position of the wrist has to be adjusted at the different bowing points.

We distinguish these bowing points as downstroke (  $\square$  ) and upstroke (  $\nabla$  )





## Our notes:

In order to depict sounds graphically, the notes were invented. The following section shows the basic musical terms.



### The scale:

In music there are seven basic tones, which are constantly recurring. They are called: c, d, e, f, g, a, b.



For playing in different keys sharps (#) are needed, which raise the pitch of a note by one half-step, and flats („b“), which lower the pitch of a note by a halfstep.

### Scale with sharpening sign „#“:



## Scale with flattening sign „b“:

c d flat d e flat e f g flat g a flat a b flat b c

b b flat a a flat g g flat f e e flat d d flat c

## The values of notes and rests:

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4  
Whole note whole rest

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4  
Half note half rest

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4  
Quarter note quarter rest

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +  
Eighth note eighth rest

1 e + d 2 e + d 3 e + d 4 e + d 1 e + d 2e+d 3e+d 4e+d  
Sixteenth note sixteenth rest

A point after a note or rest lengthens its value by half.

8 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

8 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

8 1 + te 2 + te 3 + te 4 + te 1 + te 2 + te 3 + te 4 + te

### The types of beat:

#### The 4/4 beat

8 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

#### The 3/4 beat

8 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3

#### The 2/4 beat

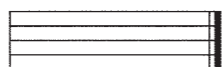
8 1 + 2 + 1 + 2 + 1 + 2 + 1 + 2 +

#### The 6/8 beat

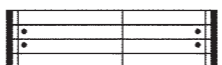
8 1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6



## Important musical signs:



..... Final character



..... Repetition of all measures between those signs



..... Fermata – the note is lengthened

DA CAPO <i>D.C.</i> .....	Repetition from beginning of the piece
al .....	up to
Fine .....	End
DAL SEGNO <i>D.S.</i> $\text{\textcircled{S}}$ .....	Repetition starting from DAL SEGNO sign
$\text{\textcircled{H}}$ .....	in case of repetition – jump from head $\text{\textcircled{H}}$ $\text{\textcircled{H}}$ to lower head $\text{\textcircled{H}}$
p = piano .....	played silently
pp= pianissimo .....	played very silently
f = forte .....	played loudly
ff= fortissimo .....	played very loudly



After repetition – jump to bracket 2



# AVE MARIA

based on a theme by Johann Sebastian Bach

8



 **Audio files**  To listen to Nr. 3  
To play along Nr. 4





# Waltz Melody

3

The musical score consists of eight staves of music in 3/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a 3/4 time signature, and a triplet of eighth notes on the first beat. The melody continues across the remaining staves with a mix of quarter and eighth notes, including some beamed eighth notes. The piece concludes with a final cadence on the eighth staff.



To listen to    Nr. 5  
To play along   Nr. 6





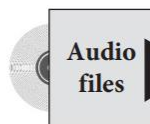
# Greensleeves

Irish folk song

The musical score is written for violin in treble clef, 3/4 time, and D major. It consists of eight staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a 3/4 time signature, and a key signature of one sharp (F#). A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' above it. The melody continues through the subsequent staves, featuring various rhythmic patterns and accidentals. The seventh staff includes a repeat sign and a triplet of eighth notes marked with a '3' above it. The piece concludes on the eighth staff with a final melodic phrase.



The image displays six staves of musical notation in treble clef. The notation includes various note values such as quarter notes, eighth notes, and dotted notes, along with sharp accidentals. The staves are arranged vertically, with the first staff at the top and the sixth at the bottom. The music appears to be a single melodic line.



To listen to Nr. 7  
To play along Nr. 8



# The Moon Has Risen

3

The musical score for 'The Moon Has Risen' is presented on eight staves. The first staff contains the beginning of the piece, including a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' above it. The melody is written on a single staff. The accompaniment is written on a single staff below the melody. The piece concludes with a final note on the eighth staff.

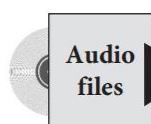


1.  
The moon has risen,  
the golden stars shine  
in the bright and clear sky,  
the black forest stands silent,  
and what rises from the meadows  
is the wonderful white mist.

2.  
How quiet is the world  
in the cover of twilight  
so peaceful and so sweet  
a quiet room for sleep  
where you misery of the day  
overslept and forgotten.

3.  
Do you see the moon hanging  
there?  
It is only half visible  
and yet it is round and beautiful.  
Some things are like that  
that we laugh at  
because our eyes don't see them.

4.  
We are but proud children,  
and are poor sinners.  
We know little about the world.  
We spin cobwebs  
and pursuing many arts  
but stray further from the goal.



To listen to    Nr. 9  
To play along   Nr. 10





# Who Has The Most Beautiful Little Sheep

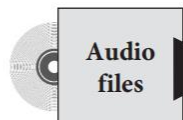


To listen to    Nr. 11  
To play along    Nr. 12

# The Flowers Are Asleep



A musical score for a violin piece. It consists of ten staves of music written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The first staff begins with a triplet of eighth notes. The music is a single melodic line. The score concludes with a double bar line at the end of the tenth staff.



To listen to    Nr. 13  
To play along    Nr. 14



# Jesus Joy

based on a theme by Johann Sebastian Bach

3



 **Audio files**  To listen to Nr. 15  
To play along Nr. 16





# The Wild Rover

Irish folk song

15

The musical score is written in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp), and 3/4 time. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The first staff contains a repeat sign and a fermata. The subsequent staves contain various musical notations including eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, with several phrases marked by slurs and fermatas.



To listen to   Nr. 17  
To play along   Nr. 18



# A Boy Saw A Little Rose Blooming

4

4

Seven staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation consists of eighth and quarter notes, some with stems pointing down. The first staff has a key signature change from one sharp to two sharps (F# and C#) in the second measure. The seventh staff ends with a double bar line.



Audio files

To listen to Nr. 19  
To play along Nr. 20



# Michael Row The Boat Ashore

The musical score consists of eight staves of music in treble clef, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a common time signature. It features a triplet of eighth notes on the first beat, indicated by a '3' above the notes. The second staff continues the melody with a quarter rest on the first beat. The third and fourth staves continue the melodic line. The fifth staff features a seventh fret barre, indicated by a '7' above the staff. The sixth, seventh, and eighth staves complete the piece with a final quarter rest on the first beat.





 **Audio files**  To listen to    Nr. 21  
To play along    Nr. 22



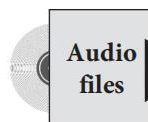
# Morning Has Broken

English folk song



To listen to    Nr. 23  
To play along   Nr. 24

# The Life of a Gypsy Is Merry



To listen to    Nr. 25  
To play along    Nr. 26

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**Ave Maria  
Waltz melody  
Greensleeves  
The moon has risen  
Who has the most beautiful little sheep  
The flowers are asleep  
Jesus joy  
The wild rover  
A boy saw a little rose blooming  
Michael row the boat ashore  
Morning has broken  
The life of a Gypsy is merry.**

**Please download the audio files at [www.jollyland.ca](http://www.jollyland.ca)**

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