

Excelcia Music Publishing
(String Orchestra - Grade .5)

Instrumentation

1st Violin
2nd Violin (Viola T.C.)
Viola
Cello
String Bass
Piano

Specifications

Playable by first year students after limited study.

Length: 40-60 measures (one page parts only)

Tempo: Moderate

Keys: D (b minor) - first six notes of the D Major scale only

Time Signatures: 4/4 only preferred

Rhythm - Quarter plus two repeated eighths.

Bowings: Use natural bowings. Simple detaché, slow pizzicato, minimal string crossings. Two or more rests between Arco and Pizz.

Other considerations: Three-part scoring - double 2nd Violin and Viola. Double Cello and Bass. Give all sections some melodic material. Lots of unison is preferred.

Excelcia Music Publishing
(String Orchestra - Grade 1)

Instrumentation

1st Violin
2nd Violin (Viola T.C.)
Viola
Cello
String Bass
Piano

Specifications

Playable by first year groups.

Length: 40-60 measures (one page parts only)

Keys: D, G (and minors) - First Position only. Bass third position. Careful writing low 2 in violin, viola (C&F Natural), avoid high 3

Time Signatures: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4

Rhythm - Whole, Half, Quarter and simple Eighth note patterns, no syncopation.

Bowings: Use natural bowings mostly. Detaché, pizzicato, staccato, legato, marcato.

Other considerations: Double 2nd Violin and Viola if at all possible. Double Cello and Bass, but be careful not to write notes that require a shift for bass (i.e. notes above B top of bass clef staff should be avoided). Give all sections some melodic material.

Excelcia Music Publishing
(String Orchestra - Grade 1.5)

Instrumentation

1st Violin
2nd Violin
3rd Violin (Viola T.C.) - not on score
Viola
Cello
String Bass
Piano

Specifications

Playable by groups at the beginning of the second year.

Length: 50-70 measures (one page parts only)

Keys: D, G (and minors) - First Position only. Bass third position. Careful writing low 2 in violin, viola (C&F Natural), avoid high 3

Time Signatures: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4

Rhythm - Whole, Half, Quarter and Eighth note patterns, plus dotted quarter. Very simple syncopation only. Eighth note triplets possible within reason.

Bowings: Detaché, pizzicato, staccato, legato, marcato. 2-note slurs, hooked. Adjacent string crossings.

Other considerations: Double Cello and Bass, but be careful not to write notes that require a shift for bass (i.e. notes above B top of bass clef staff should be avoided). Give all sections some melodic material.

Open string double stops OK.

Excelcia Music Publishing
(String Orchestra - Grade 2-2.5)

Instrumentation

1st Violin
2nd Violin
3rd Violin (Viola T.C.) - not on score
Viola
Cello
String Bass
Piano

Specifications

Playable by groups at the end of the second year to third year groups - elementary and middle school.

Length: 50-80 measures (one page parts preferred or adequate rest to allow for page turn.)

Keys: D, G, C, A, F, Bb

Time Signatures: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, simple cut time, simple 6/8

Positions: First position if at all possible. Cello 1st position plus extensions and 2nd position, bass 1/2 and 2nd position. Violin 1 3rd position.

Rhythm - Whole, Half, Quarter, Eighth and simple Sixteenth patterns, plus dotted eighth sixteenth. Use of eighth and quarter note triplets. Easy sixteenths repeated notes.

Bowings: Use natural bowings. 4-note slurs, hooked bowings. Spiccato

Double stops - 2 open strings or fingered note on higher string.

Excelcia Music Publishing
(String Orchestra - Grade 3-4)

Instrumentation

1st Violin
2nd Violin
3rd Violin (Viola T.C.) - not on score
Viola
Cello
String Bass
Piano

Specifications

Playable by good middle school and up.

Length: 2 page parts only please - Approx 120 measures.

Keys: Grade 3 to 3.5 - D, G, C, A, F, Bb, Eb Grade 4 - add E and Ab

Time Signatures: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 6/8 and cut.

Positions: Violin 1 up to 5th position, Violin 2/Viola up to 3rd position, Cello add 4th position, Bass 5th position.

Rhythm - Within reason for grade three, no extended syncopation.