

Esther Klein · Michael Dartsch

Together on
Strings

23 Song Settings for Young String Players

With Suggestions for Playing, Practicing and Making Music

Violins, Violas, Violoncellos, Double Basses
English Translations

NB: Song texts remain untranslated; playing instructions and scoring information
belonging to the music are included in the printed books.



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On the Back of the Book

In this book, you will find many songs: old and new; songs from near and far; some you know for sure and others you will get to know. You can play them together in your group on your violins, violas, cellos and double basses. We wish you lots of fun!

Esther Klein is a teacher at the municipal music school in Saarbrücken. She has chosen songs and invented your parts. Her main instrument is the recorder; she only started playing the violin as an adult. She thinks it's great to make music together with others. She is particularly fond of Irish "folk music", in which the violin plays a major role. She has always enjoyed creating accompaniment parts for songs and likes to come up with something special. That's why there's something special to discover in almost every piece!

Michael Dartsch has also chosen songs, written lyrics for the songs and the book, come up with suggestions for practicing and playing music and added the lines. He plays the violin and would miss something, if he didn't have time to play even for a day! He also taught children to play the violin for a long time. Today he is a professor at the conservatory in Saarbrücken, helping students to become good teachers. He has also written a violin school ("Der Geigenkasten"), which is also available for cello and viola.

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The English translation of the italicized titles of the suggestions for playing, practicing, and making music is roughly as follows:

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- No. 15 *Clap-Stomp-Slap Game*
- No. 16 *Street Game*
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- No. 23 *The Difference – To Turkey and Back – Lots of Fish without Music Skills*

1

Summ, summ, summ

Summ, summ, summ = Buzz buzz buzz

Violin 1, 2: Colored notes indicate that you play the melody.

The summ summ summ rhythm is hidden everywhere. Can you hear and find it in your part? The third violins and first violas can also play alone for once. Doesn't that sound like bees?

2

Ihr Blätter, wollt ihr tanzen?

Prior to the melody, you can hear the wind in the violins and the first violas. And when the second violins and the second violas play on their own from the ninth bar on (with upbeat), you can imagine how several leaves start to dance one after the other.

3

Poli, poli, olizisti

It sounds a bit like it did almost five hundred years ago. The second violas play the drums, and the cellos and double basses play an instrument called the hurdy-gurdy. "Poli, Poli, olizisti" is a pun (Polizist = Policeman).

For English speakers: You could use "Heli, heli, helicopter" instead.

Viola 2 and Violin 4:

Once for Everyone

Impro construction kit for viola 2

For the music, see the printed book.

4

Der Mond ist aufgegangen

The first violin plays higher than the other parts – just like the moon is above us up in the sky.

5 Grün, grün, grün

Violin 3, 4 / Viola: Colored notes indicate that you play the melody.

Do you find something in your part that sounds like “alles, was ich” [all that I]? Or do you find something that sounds like “Grün, grün, grün sind” [green, green, green are]. Already at the beginning, you hear “alles, was ich” several times in a row.

6 Bella Bimba

Just as the ribbon goes round in circles, so do the parts in this song: They circle around certain tones that they pass over and over again. What are the tones in your part?

7 Eine kleine Geige

And by the way: Viola, cello and double bass are also members of the violin family. These instruments all look very similar! Even though the song is called “Eine kleine Geige” [A Little Violin], it also refers to the other string instruments! Some of you would like to have a violin, others a viola, a cello or a double bass!

What does it sound like if, starting from the beginning, each part plays only the measures that have eighth notes, while all the other parts rest during this time? You can play through the whole piece like this and you'll hear a lot of questions and answers – and sometimes you won't hear anyone playing.

8 Schneeflöckchen, Weißröckchen

From the first violin, you can hear the snowing getting stronger in the second stanza, the flowers sleeping in the third stanza and the children playing in the fourth stanza. Can you also hear the ball being thrown?

9

Meinem Weinberg

In the first part, the second violins play the fox approaching cautiously. In the second part, the fox sneaks away with the grapes in the third violins, violas and cellos.

10

Kalinka

Kalinka is the diminutive form of the Russian word *Kalina*, which means the berry of the snowball bush.

When the cellos and double basses are going strong, everyone is swept off their feet and all you want to do is dance!

11

Wüstenkanon (Durch die Wüste)

Here, the second cellos and double basses are a camel slowly trotting along. The first violins, second violas and first cellos play a camel caravan.

12

Auf der Mauer, auf der Lauer

First you can practice the beginning and the end. The violins and the first violas can repeatedly imagine the words "On the brickwall"; they may then only think the word "on", but the words "the brick-wall" are to be played. If the others play along, the whole thing – like a good brickwall – must not break apart!

13 Dracula-Rock

You can hear a lot here: the trembling with fear (if you play the tremolo), the twelve chimes at the beginning in the first cellos and the opening of Dracula's coffin lid right after in the second violas.

14 Morgenlied

Can you hear the sun rising in the first cellos? It even rises twice in a row – and for the third time just a little bit.

15 If You're Happy | Wenn du glücklich bist

Unfortunately, you can't clap your hands while playing the violin, viola, cello or double bass when you're happy – but you can pluck, and maybe that will sound nice as well.

16 Möge die Straße uns zusammenführen

The composer Johann Pachelbel wrote a famous canon for string instruments. Those of you who know it may notice that it sounds similar in the third violins and first violas, as well as in the second cellos and double basses.

17 I Like the Flowers | Ich lieb' den Frühling

In the beginning, the violins chat with the first violas and tell each other what they like. Later on, they play in canon. Parts of the melody also appear in the accompanying parts. Can you find them?

18

Auf einem Baum ein Kuckuck saß

The beginning sounds similar to a real hunting horn signal – more precisely like the signal “Departure for Hunting”. In addition, there is a cuckoo call three times in the first violin: once as usual and twice slightly changed. Can you hear it?

19

Leise rieselt der Schnee

Normally, it is not possible to hear snow falling, but it is in this piece. So, the soft flakes should not be played too hard.

20

Der Kuckuck und der Esel

At the beginning, the first and the second violins take turns playing the cuckoo and the donkey. Pay attention to the cuckoo and the donkey in your part. Only the second cellos and double basses do not play either. The whole song should sound “as beautiful and lovely” as the duet of the two animals.

Preliminary Exercise

Fireflies at Dusk

For the music, see the printed book.

21

Miaou, miaou | Miaou, miaou

Here we meet a French cat. It is played by the first violins. Can you hear its constant meowing?

22

Abendlied

At the beginning, the second cellos and double basses slowly descend note by note – just as one sinks into a deep dream. Even after that, they keep descending. At the end, the second violins also descend, but a bit faster – I wonder what beautiful dreams they are having?

Preliminary Exercise

Toad Walk

For the music, see the printed book.

23

Dele geliyor | Sieh, der Fluss

In the upper three parts, you can hear the river flowing, the lower ones can be imagined rather as stones in the river.

Note on the execution if you play the first or the second violin

The inverted b-flat [♭] means that the b should be played a little lower, but not too close to the b-flat. To hear the unfamiliar tone, you can also listen to the song on the Internet. In our sheet music, it only appears in the first and second violin.

Note on the execution if you play the third or the fourth violin, viola, violoncello or double bass

The inverted b-flat [♭] means that the b should be played a little lower than usual. To hear the unfamiliar tone, you can also listen to the song on the internet. In our sheet music, this note only occurs in the first and second violin, not in your part.

Preliminary Exercises

Poem in Two Versions

The Difference – Version 1

When I sat by the riverside,
thoughts of mine drifted far and wide:
Humans don't ever breathe through gills,
goldfish never have music skills.
Humans have neither gills nor fins,
goldfish never play violins.

English poem: Petra Kamlot

The Difference – Version 2

Sitting at times by the riverside,
thoughts of mine drifted ever so wide:
Humans never ever breathe through gills,
goldfish don't have any music skills.
Humans don't ever have gills or fins,
goldfish never play the violins.

To Turkey and Back

For the music, see the printed book.

Lots of Fish without Music Skills

For the music, see the printed book.