

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Class: Bow Hold Lesson

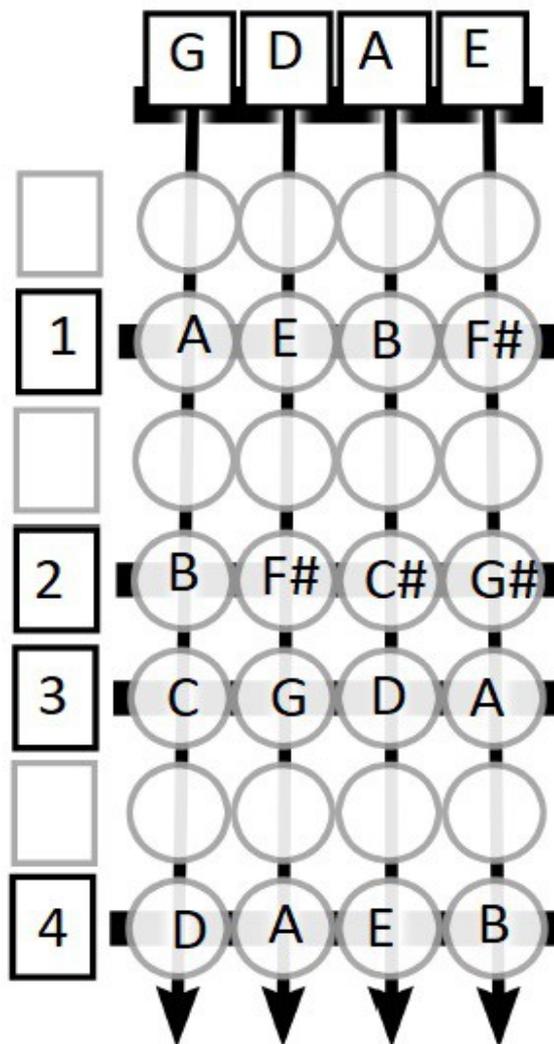
This week, we're going to practice our bow grip on a pen or pencil. (If you're using a pencil, make sure it's not a very tiny one, the pencil will need to allow all of your fingers to fit comfortably on board, without being squashed!) Follow the steps below to build your bow grip, and use the picture at the bottom to help you. The picture shows how the finished bow grip should look.

#### Holding the Bow:

- Absolutely the most important thing about holding the bow is to keep your fingers relaxed. We want a relaxed hand, not a claw. It's better for playing and it's better for your muscles.
- First, shake your right hand and make sure your fingers are relaxed. Imagine they are asleep!
- Lie your sleepy fingers on top of the pencil. The pencil should be horizontal, like a bow – in other words, make sure the pencil isn't pointing up into the air, that's not how we use our bows, after all! Think of the real bow, and imagine placing your hand down at the bottom end, or heel. Make sure your fingers are draped completely over the pen or pencil, and are not standing stiffly on top of it.
- Next, position your index finger so it's lying across the left hand side of the pencil. On a bow, there is a black pad, or cushion, in place for your index finger to lie across (see it in the picture below).
- Take your little finger, and bending it, perch it on top of the pencil. This pinky finger is like the captain that steers the ship. It's the only finger allowed to perch on top of the bow and not lie over it. It can take a while for the captain to get his sea legs, though! If your little finger falls off regularly at the beginning, don't worry, just keep hauling that captain back up on board and into position again. Over time, your little finger will become more stable.
- Last but not least, bend your thumb, and tuck it into the little space underneath the pen or pencil. On a real bow, this space will be just above the silver clip. There's no need for the thumb to poke all the way through to the other side, but it is important for it to have a nice bend, and to be relaxed. Compare your bow grip to the picture below, and see if you need to make any changes. The more you practice your bow grip, the easier it will become!



4<sup>th</sup> Class – Fingering Chart for the Violin:



Use the chart above to help you answer these questions:

- How many fingers do we need to play the note C on the G string? \_\_\_\_\_
- We can play an F# with our 1<sup>st</sup> finger on the E string. Is there another F# on the violin? Say how many fingers, and which string it is on! \_\_\_\_\_
- How many different A's do we know how to play on the violin? \_\_\_\_\_ Which of these A's has the lowest sound? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which D is higher: no fingers on the D string, or three fingers on the A string? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many fingers do you need to play a G# on the E string? \_\_\_\_\_
- There are three different B's that we know how to play on the violin. Write down how to play each of them, starting with the lowest and going up to the highest B. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 5<sup>th</sup> Class: Note naming and Composer activity

Try this note-naming activity about one of the most famous composers in music. As always, use the two rhymes for naming notes on the musical staff. Here they are below, and don't forget to count your lines and spaces from the bottom up:

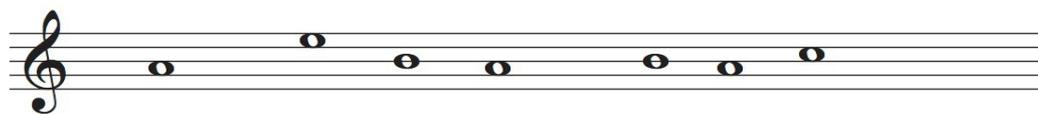
For Notes on a Line:  
Every Good Buddy Deserves Fun

For Notes on a Space (sandwiched between two lines):  
If it's a space, think of **F – A – C – E**



## The Great Composers

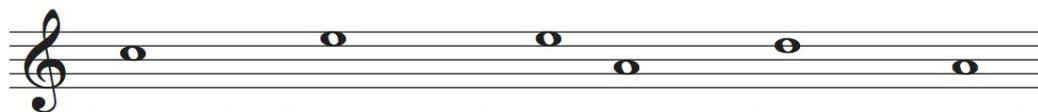
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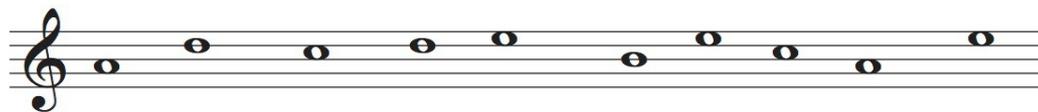
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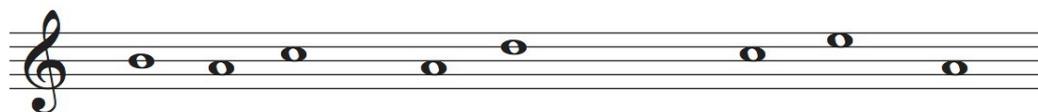
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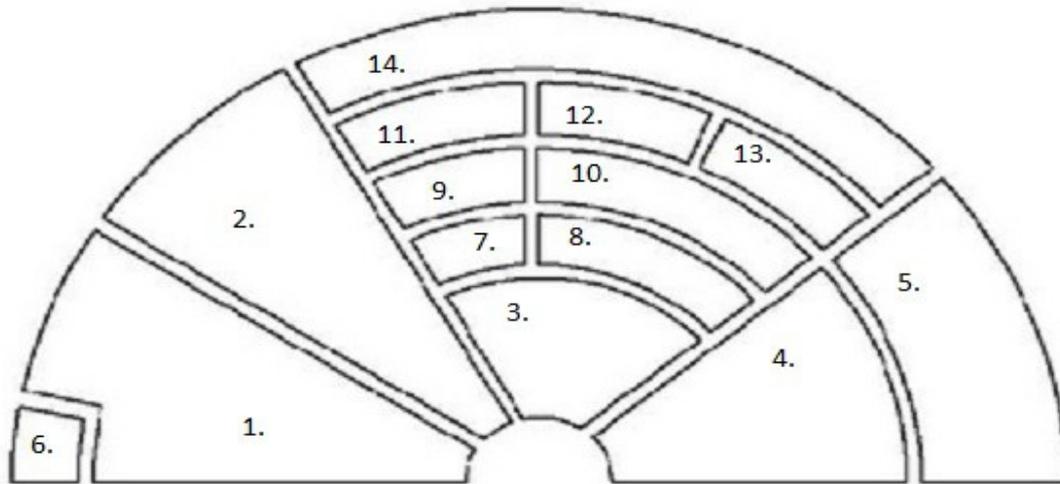
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## 6<sup>th</sup> Class orchestra: The Instruments of the Orchestra

# The layout of the Orchestra



### String Section:

1. The First Violins. The leader sits at the front of the section, and is the leader of the orchestra, making sure everyone is tuned before the conductor begins.
2. The Second Violins
3. Violas
4. Cellos
5. Double Basses
6. Harp – the harp is a solo instrument and is only used sometimes, so it is not always there.

### Woodwind section:

7. Flutes (sometimes Piccolo too, depending on the music – a piccolo is a smaller, higher flute)
8. Oboes
9. Clarinets
10. Bassoons

### Brass Section:

11. French Horns
12. Trumpets
13. Trombones and Tuba

### Percussion Section:

14. Percussion section is at the back of the orchestra, and can include many different instruments, such as timpani, cymbals, marimba, xylophones, shakers or triangle, depending on the music being played.

Draw your own diagram of the orchestra. Colour each of the four sections a different colour and see if you can label each instrument. Don't forget to add in the most important element to your orchestra – the conductor! He or she stands in the very middle at the front, facing all the musicians.