Improvisation in the Strings Classroom: Compositions and Arrangements for Teaching Creative Music Making

Title: Improvisation in the Strings Classroom: Compositions and Arrangements for Teaching Creative Music Making

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Abstract: In a traditional classroom, string instrument education is often taught using written, classical music. Teachers must instruct on how to play violin, viola, cello and bass, as well as how to read music and play as an ensemble. Rarely are string students provided the opportunity to improvise in any style of music. Several pieces were composed that incorporate improvisation in a harmonic context as well as essential string techniques. The pieces progress from easy to challenging in their technical requirements and improvisation language. The compositions help fill a gap in the music for strings that encompass improvisation.

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