

# THE BELWIN STRING BUILDER

By Samuel Applebaum

## FOREWORD

The Belwin String Builder is a string class Method in which the Violin, Viola, Cello and Bass play together throughout. Each book, however, is a complete unit and may be used separately for class or individual instruction.

In the opening of Volume III the pupil is taught to find the fingers in the third position on all strings. Simple shifts are introduced, followed by shifts to and from the third position with different fingers. Each type of shift is presented and developed with interesting melodies. The pupil is taught how to build major and minor scales and to play them with the basic bowings, the *détaché*, *martelé*, wrist and finger stroke, and the *spiccato*.

The material in this volume is chosen for its musical interest and its technical value. There are a number of duets which are to be played by either two pupils or with the class divided into two groups. There also are a number of melodies in which the class becomes a string ensemble, each instrument playing a different part. A small "p" after the number indicates there is a piano part for that melody.

The material in this book is realistically graded so that only a minimum of explanatory material is required.

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## TECHNICAL PROGRESSION

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## The Third Position (3rd P.)

Slide the entire hand up the fingerboard (from the elbow joint) until the 1st finger reaches the 3rd finger. As in the 1st position, the thumb is placed opposite the 1st finger or a bit behind it, with a space between the base of the thumb and the neck.

### Finding the Fingers on the G and D Strings

On the G and D strings, there is a half-step between the 3rd and 4th fingers.

1

### The Détaché Above the Middle of the Bow (A.M.)

Play smoothly from the middle to as near the tip as possible. Use the full width of the hair, drawing the bow parallel to the bridge. Only the forearm is to be used.

“t” means to test the note with the open string. Leave the finger on the string while testing.

A.M. - above the middle

2

### We Take Off! (Duet)

Moderato (Key of C)

F. WOHLFAHRT

3

ROTE PROJECT: In the 3rd position - practice the 3 4 finger pattern on the G and D strings. There will be a half-step between the 3rd and 4th fingers. Play in various rhythms and bowings.

## How To Play the Spiccato Stroke

The spiccato stroke is similar to the preparatory stroke on Page 30. Now however, we will lift the bow from the string during the stop instead of allowing it to remain on the string. The bow is actually thrown on the string from a height of about an inch with a small swinging of the hand in the wrist joint. The fingers must be very flexible. Use the side of the hair and strike the string a bit nearer to the fingerboard than to the bridge. Play these pieces about four inches from the frog.

### Ping Pong

Moderato (Key of C)

F. WOHLFAHRT

95

### A Merry Dance

The spiccato stroke is not to be used for the quarter notes. They are to be played broadly.

Allegretto (Key of F)

SLOVAK FOLK SONG

96<sup>p</sup>

### Perpetual Motion

Allegretto (Key of Bb)

R. HOFMANN

97

ROTE PROJECT: The Arpeggio stroke. Play a series of three and four string arpeggios about the middle of the bow. Do this gradually faster and faster until the bow rebounds from the string on each note by its own momentum.