

**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC: Strings**  
**Module 1 (Year 1)**

Enduring Understanding	Music can be created in many ways.	
California Standards Addressed	1.1	Read, write, and perform simple rhythmic patterns, using eighth notes, quarter notes, half notes, dotted half notes, whole notes, and rests.
	1.6	Identify simple musical forms (e.g., AABA, AABB, round).
	2.1	Sing/play with accuracy in a developmentally appropriate range.
	2.2	Sing/play age appropriate songs from memory including round, partner songs and ostinatos.
	4.1	Select and use specific criteria in making judgments about the quality of a musical performance.
Sample Performance Task	<p>Students will play a 3 or 4 note (D, E, F#, G) song from memory such as <i>Hot Cross Buns</i>, <i>Mary Had a Little Lamb</i> or <i>Au Claire de la Lune</i> using <b>arco</b>. Students will perform their song for the class using good intonation, good tone, correct posture and fingerings while keeping a steady beat.</p> <p><b>Scoring Tool:</b> Checklist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plays with correct body position.</li> <li>• Is developing good intonation.</li> <li>• Is developing good tone.</li> <li>• Keeps a steady beat.</li> <li>• Uses correct fingerings.</li> <li>• Plays from memory.</li> </ul>	

\*Standards are from Grade 3 unless otherwise indicated. The wording may have been modified for instrumental music.

## SUGGESTED STEPS

### **Step 1: Echo note and rest values playing pizzicato on open strings keeping a steady beat (1-2 classes).**

- Discuss the principles of good and bad pizzicato tone.
- Listen to examples of pizzicato, e.g., Pizzicato Polka by Strauss
- Practice how to produce a good tone using pizzicato.
- Play open string rhythmic patterns by rote using pizzicato, keeping a steady beat.
- Play open string rhythmic patterns from alternative notation using pizzicato.
- Write using a Journal Prompt: Describe the sound your instrument makes when you play pizzicato.

### **Step 2: Echo note and rest values playing arco on open strings, keeping a steady beat (2-3 classes).**

- Listen to examples of stringed instruments playing arco.
- Talk about how sound is produced on an instrument using the bow.
- Discuss and practice down and up bow.
- Describe, discuss and practice good tone using arco.
- Practice duplicating the tone modeled by the teacher.
- Play rhythmic patterns arco on open strings by rote and alternative notation.
- Write using a Journal Prompt: Describe the sound your instrument makes when you play arco. How is it different from pizzicato? Which sound do you like better?

### **Step 3: Play rhythmic patterns using D, E, F# and G in first position on the D string using pizzicato and arco (4-5 classes).**

- Echo-sing rhythmic patterns using D, E, F# and G.
- Echo-play rhythmic patterns using D, E, F# and G.
- Learn to write and play rhythmic patterns using D, E, F# and G from alternative notation. Use 1 rhythm pattern for all 4 notes and 1 pitch per measure.
- Analyze their own playing as it relates to the tone that is modeled by the teacher.
- Write using a Journal Prompt: Create 4 different rhythmic patterns using D, E, F# and G. Use 1 rhythm pattern for all 4 notes and 1 pitch per measure.

### **Step 4: Play melodic patterns/songs using D, E, F# and G using pizzicato and arco. Identify simple musical forms. (2-3 classes)**

- Listen to various examples of the 4 notes played by the teacher. (See suggested repertoire in **Performance Task** above.)
- Learn to write and play melodic patterns using D, E, F# and G from alternative notation.
- Play 3-4 note songs from alternative notation.
- Learn about and identify musical forms of the songs.
- Discuss and practice memorizing the songs.
- Write using a Journal Prompt: Using alternative notation, write a 4 measure melody using D, E, F# and G.

### **Step 5: Do the Performance Task.**

- Review and discuss the scoring checklist.
- Play the **Performance Task** in small groups, pairs, or as solos.

