







MASTER INSTRUCTOR

FOR THE

TENOR-BANJO

BY

GEORGE L. LANSING

M U.S.A.

WHITE-SMITH MUSIC PUBLISHING CO.

BOSTON

NEW YORK

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Foreword

The Tenor-Banjo is the outcome of much experimenting by dance orchestra players.

Unlike the Mandolin-Banjo it retains the characteristic Banjo tone quality and by the system of tuning it becomes much easier to play than the regular five string Banjo.

In this work the author has endeavored to present the latest system of stroking as used by the leading orchestra players, thus preserving the proper accentuation which is absolutely essential in the rendition of the dance music of the present day.

The signs used to denote the strokes are those given in the latest authentic methods for all plectral instruments.

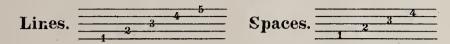
G. L. LANSING

ELEMENTS OF MUSIC.

The principal characters used to express music are NOTES, which represent musical sounds, and RESTS, which represent silence.

These characters are written upon the STAFF, a union of 5 lines and the 4 spaces between.

THE STAFF.



NOTES AND RESTS.

The different kinds and their names.

NOTES.

Whole note. Half note. Quarter note. Eighth note. Sixteenth note. Thirty-second note. Sixty-fourth note.

RESTS.

Whole note Half note Quarter note Eighth note Sixteenth note Thirty - second note Sixty - fourth note rest. rest. rest. rest. rest.

Table showing the relative time-value of notes.



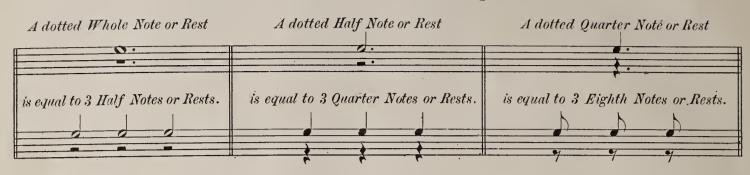
(or 64 Sixty-fourth notes.)

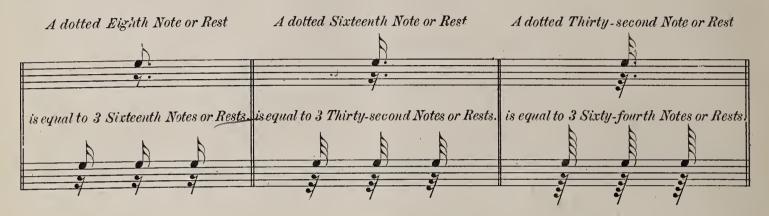
The same rule applies also to the Rests.

DOTTED NOTES AND RESTS.

A Dot after a note or rest increases the time-value one half.

Dotted Notes and Rests and their Equivalents.





A second dot after a note or rest adds to the time-value of the note or rest, one half the value of the first dot.

Thus a double-dotted Half Note (...) is equal to 3 Quarter Notes and 1 Eighth Note (...), and a double-dotted Quarter Note (...) to 3 Eighth Notes and 1 Sixteenth Note (...) and so on. Double dotted Rests have the same relative time-values as corresponding notes.

THE CLEF.

The CLEF is a character usually placed at the beginning of the Staff to indicate the Musical Pitch of the notes written thereon.

For all the higher instruments such as the FLUTE, VIOLIN, OBOE, CLARINET, CORNET, HORN, GUITAR, MANDOLIN and also the BANJO, FLAGEOLET, FIFE, CONCERTINA, ACCORDEON and some others, a Clef called the G Clef is used. It fixes the tone G upon the 2d line of the Staff.

For instruments of a lower compass such as the VIOLONCELLO, DOUBLE BASS, BASSOON, TROMBONE, TUBA and others, a Clef called the F Clef is used. It fixes F upon the 4th line of the Staff.

F Clef.

A Clef called the C Clef is used especially for the VIOLA and fixes C upon the middle line of the Staff.

This is called the Alto Clef. When placed on the 4th line it is called the Tenor Clef.

C Clef. Same pitch as C C

In Music for the Violonce To, Basson and some others, several of these clefs are sometimes used.

Music for the PIANO, ORGAN and HARP requires the use of both the G and the F Clefs, which are placed on separate Staves connected by what is called a BRACE.



TIME, MEASURE & BAR.

There are three kinds of Time, viz: _ Common, Triple & Compound Time.

Examples of Triple Time. Examples of Compound Time. Examples of Common Time. $\mathbf{c} \text{ or } \frac{4}{4}, \ \frac{2}{4}, \ \mathbf{c} \text{ or } \frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{3}{4}, \ \frac{3}{2}, \ \frac{3}{8},$ $\frac{6}{8}, \ \frac{9}{8}, \ \frac{12}{8}, \ \frac{6}{4}$

The lower of the two figures indicates the kind of a note, and the upper, how many of that kind of a note are contained in a measure. Thus, $\frac{3}{4}$ indicates that there are three quarter notes to a measure.

A MEASURE is that portion of a musical composition contained between two single bars. A BAR is a perpendicular line drawn through the staff, thus: A DOUBLE BAR is placed at the end of a piece of music; sometimes at the end of a section (strain) thereof. A DOUBLE BAR with dots, thus: is called a repeat, and signifies a repetition from the previous double bar, or the commencement of the piece.

ACCIDENTALS.

The Sharp (#), Flat (b), Natural (4), Double Sharp (x) and Double Flat (bb) are called ACCIDENTALS.

The # before a note raises it a Semitone (half tone). The before a note lowers it a Semitone.

The x " " " Whole Tone.

The by " " " " Whole Tone.

The # before a note that has been double-sharped lowers it a Semitone.

The \$\dagger " " " double-flatted raises ""

The Sharps and Flats placed next to the Clef are called the Signature. EX.



NOTE: Each Sharp or Flat in the Signature affects that particular tone upon which it is placed so long as it remains in the Signature, unless changed by the introduction of other accidentals before the notes.

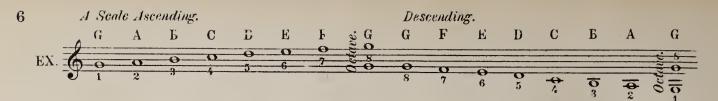
THE SCALE.

A SCALE is a series of Musical sounds, ascending or descending according to a system of tones and semitones. The first seven letters of the Alphabet are applied to the seven principal tones of the Scale. Also the Italian monosyllables Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Si.

It has already been shown that the G Clef fixes G upon the 2d line of the Staff. From this starting point all other tones can be determined. Notes extending above or below the regular degrees of the Staff are written upon what are called LEDGER LINES, and the spaces between.







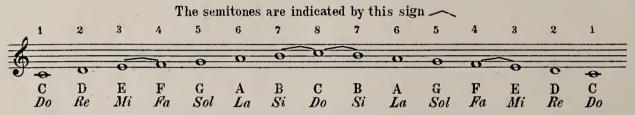
NOTE. Observe that the seven letters follow each other in regular alphabetical order, and that the eighth letter is always the same as the first, whichever one we begin with. It is therefore said to be an *Octave* (8 tones) higher or lower than the first, accordingly as we go up or down.

DIFFERENT KINDS OF SCALES.

The Scale is the basis of all music. There are three kinds in common use: the *Major Scale*, the *Minor Scale*, and the *Chromatic Scale*. The *Major Scale* consists of seven principal tones, viz: five whole tones, and two semitones. The semitones occur between the *third* and *fourth*, and the *seventh* and *eighth* degrees of the Scale. Degrees or intervals may be *Major*, *Minor*, or *Perfect*, viz; _ Major 2\frac{1}{2}, Minor 2\frac{1}{2}, Major 3\frac{1}{2}, Minor 3\frac{1}{2}, Perfect 4\frac{1}{2}, Perfect 5\frac{1}{2}h, and so on up to the octaves.

The Major Scale.

SCALE OF C MAJOR.

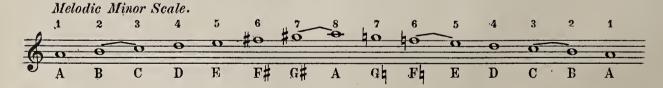


All Major Scales have the same construction and the same order of intervals, ascending or descending.

The Minor Scale.

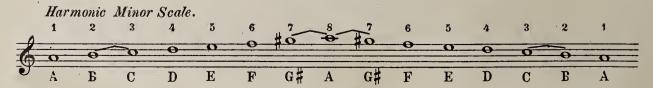
Every Major Scale has its relative Minor. The Signature is the same in each, and the Key-note is a Minor Third (tone and a half) below that of the relative Major Scale. Ex. It has also five tones and two semitones, but with a difference in the order of intervals. The semitones occur between the second and third, and seventh and eighth degrees of the scale ascending, and between the fifth and sixth and second and third degrees descending.

SCALE OF A MINOR. (Relative to C Major.)



There are two kinds of Minor Scales in common use; the above which is called the *Melodic Minor Scale*, and the following which is called the *Harmonic Minor Scale*. Observe the difference in the arrangement of the semitones:

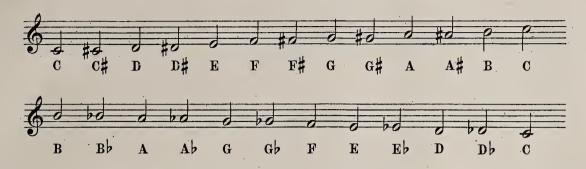
SCALE OF A MINOR.



As the Student will meet both forms in his subsequent practice, an example of each has therefore been given. 8685 - 94

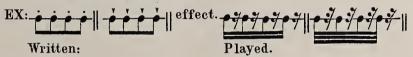
THE CHROMATIC SCALE.

This Scale is composed of twelve semitones, and may be formed upon any degree of the scale, major or minor. In ascending, the Sharp, Double-sharp, or Natural is employed in its formation, but in descending, the Flat, Bouble-Flat, or Natural is used accordingly as there are sharps or flats in the signature.



MISCELLANEOUS CHARACTERS.

Notes having a dot or dash over or under them are to be played short and detached. This is called Staccato. Half staccato. Full staccato.



This sign \(\cdot\) called a Hold, placed over a note or rest, prolongs it beyond its exact value. It is sometimes placed at the end of a piece instead of the word Fine, which means the end.

The character ___ called a Tie when placed over two notes on the same degree of the staff ___ makes them one continuous sound.

When placed over two notes on different degrees it is called a Slur and indicates that the notes it applies to are to be played in a smooth and connected manner.

Three notes played in the time of two of the same kind are called a Triplet, and are indicated thus: A Sextolet is a group of six notes played in the time of four of the same kind. EX.



The % called a Sign, directs the player back to where it was previously indicated, for the purpose of repeating a certain portion of the music.

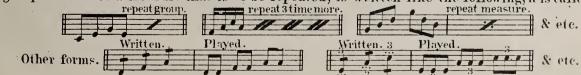
A passage that repeats, sometimes has two endings indicated thus: That marked 121 is to be played the first time and the other 20 the second time.

Every measure has its natural or primary and secondary accents, besides other smaller subdivisions. When the natural accent is perverted and made to fall on an unaccented division of the measure it is called Syncopation.



When a stronger accent is required than that which naturally belongs to a note it is indicated by one or another of the following signs called Accent Marks. A, > or fz called Forzando, rfz Rinforzando, and sometimes ffz, according to the degree of accent desired.

When a group of notes or a measure that is to be repeated, is written like the following, it is called Abbreviation.

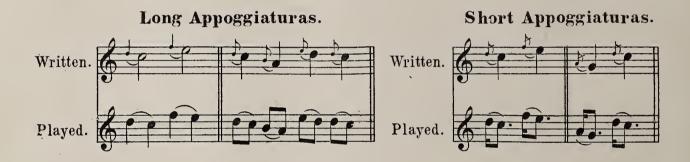


ORNAMENTS.

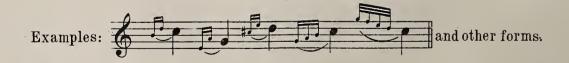
The chief musical embellishments are the Appoggiatura (or Grace Note), the Gruppetto (or Turn), and the Trill (or Shake).

APPOGGIATURAS.

The Appoggiatura is a small note placed before a principal note for the purpose of ornamentation or effect. There are two kinds of Appoggiaturas in common use the Long Appoggiatura, which takes one half of the time-value of the principal note before which it is placed and also receives the accentant the Short Appoggiatura, which is played very quickly, the accent in this case falling on the principal note.



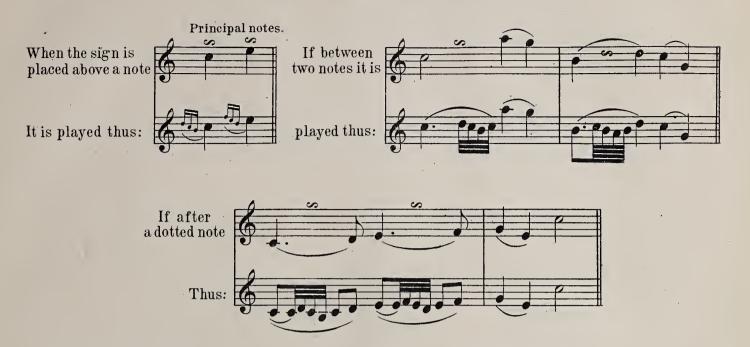
A group of Appoggiatura notes sometimes precedes a principal note. These notes are played very rapidly and the principal note receives the accent.



THE GRUPPETTO (or Turn).

This musical embellishment is a group of notes (3 or 4, as the case may be) consisting of a principal note and the next note above and below it. It is indicated by the sign ∞ . There are several forms of the Gruppetto as will be seen by the following examples.

Examples of the Gruppetto.



When a note in the Gruppetto is to be sharped or flatted, either above or below the principal note, or both, the sign is expressed accordingly, in the following manner:



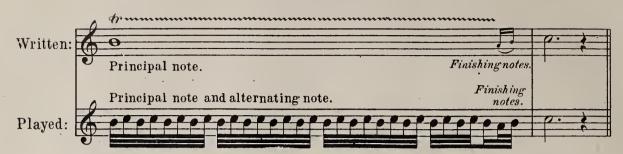
THE TRILL (or Shake).

The Trill is a rapid alternation of two notes a tone or a semitone apart. It is indicated by the sign of placed above the principal note, the alternating note being the one next above it. There are three kinds of trills the Perject Trill, (with finishing notes) the Imperfect Trill, (without finishing notes) and the Mordente or short trill, indicated thus w.

*Sometimes the next one below 't.

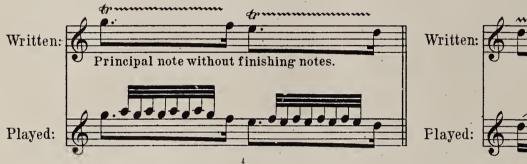
Examples of the Trill.

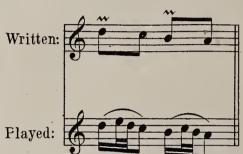
Perfect Trill.



Imperfect Trill.

Mordente (or Short Trill).





OTHER SIGNS.

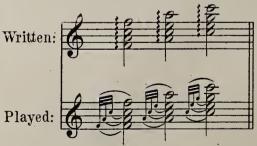
Tremolo.

Arpeggios.

A very rapid repetition of the same tone is called *Tremolo*

When chords are to be played in the manner of the Harp it is called Arpeggio.





p, piano	means	soft.
pp, pianissimo	,,	very soft.
f, forte	,,	loud.
ff, fortissimo	,,	very loud.
mf, mezzo-forte	,,	half or moderately loud.
fp, forte-piano	,,	loud and immediately soft again.
fz, sf or $>$ $sforzando$	"	sharply accented.
crescendo, cresc. or	5.5	increasing in loudness.
diminuendo, dim. or	"	decreasing in loudness.

THE TENOR BANJO

The Tenor Banjo consists of a rim varying in size from eleven to twelve and one half inches in diameter. The head is drawn over the rim and kept very tight by brackets. The arm upon which the fingerboard rests is firmly attached to the rim.

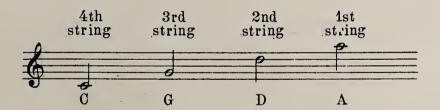
There are seventeen frets on the instrument giving a range of two octaves and two semitones.

The Strings and Bridge

The four strings are the 1st string A, the 2nd string D, the 3rd string G, and the 4th string C.

The bridge over which the strings pass should be placed at exactly the same distance from the 12th fret that the latter is from the nut.

The Open Strings



Tuning

Tune the 4th string to C from piano, then close the 4th string at the 7th fret and tune the 3rd string in unison producing G; close the 3rd string at the 7th fret, tune 2nd string in unison producing D, close the 2nd string at the 7th fret, tune 1st string in unison giving A. The open strings correspond to the following notes on piano.

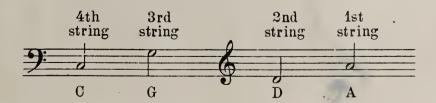


Diagram of the Tenor Banjo Fingerboard

Showing the Chromatic Scale on each String

A or 1st String	- # -	be b		- #-	be h	2 # 2	be		#	b	= 4	#	be 4	2 ##	be		•	#	b	1	<u>-</u>
D or 2nd String	»-#p			-#2	be b	- # -	b-	- #	be	4.0	_ 1	- #-	be 4	2 #	b •	4	-	#	b	4	=
Frets	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	/ 8		9	. 1	0 1	1 1	2	1 3	1 4	1 8	5	1 6	17	
1st String A	ΑĦ	ВЬ В	C	C#	Db D	· D#	ЕЬ І	g F		F#	Gb· G	G#	Ab A	A	Bb	В	С	С	# Db	D	
2nd String D	D#	ЕЬ Е	E	F#	Gb G	G#	Ab A	A#	ВЬ	В	С	C#	Db. D	D	Eb	Е	F	F	# Gb	G	
3rd String G	.G#	Ab A	A#	вь в	В#	C C#	Db I	D	Eb	E	F	F#	_ G	G	Ab	A	A#]	вь :	В	в#С	-
4th String C	C#	DЬ D	D#	ЕЬ Е	F	F#	0	G	Ab	A	A#	вь в	В#	СС	Дb	D	D# 1	ЕЬ :	Е	F	
Nut																					7
G or ===================================	#0	be t		10	 #		be !		be	4		#		#	b		#p-b	2			-
C or Ching			(11	L 44-			##				
4th String		b 4	# # #	b 4		#		• ‡	1	4		P	F	1 1			11		1		=

Holding the Instrument.

The performer should sit upright in a chair without arms. Rest the rim on the right leg, about four inches from the body, keeping it in place by a moderate pressure of the body on the upper part of the rim.

The arm of the banjo should be raised so that the pegs are in line with the chin. Support the arm at the nut in the hollow between the thumb and largest joint of the first finger of the left hand, the thumb being on the upper side of the arm at the nut, with the first and second fingers arched directly over the first and second strings.

Method of Using the Plectrum (or Pick)

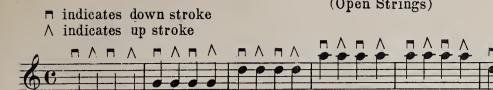
Place the plectrum between the thumb and first finger near the end of the finger. Keep the thumb almost straight. Strike the strings with the flat surface of the plectrum, never with the edge.

Rest the forearm on the rim about four inches from the tailpiece. Arch the wrist and strike the strings from above, not across them, except in playing chords.

Begin by playing softly, using down and up strokes alternately. Practice these until able to play them rapidly, producing the Tremolo, which is the method of sustaining notes on all plectrum instruments.

Stroke Exercises

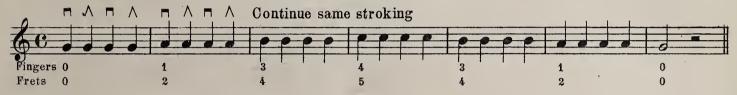
(Open Strings)



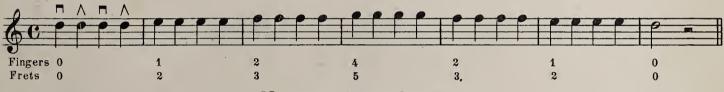
Notes on the 4th String



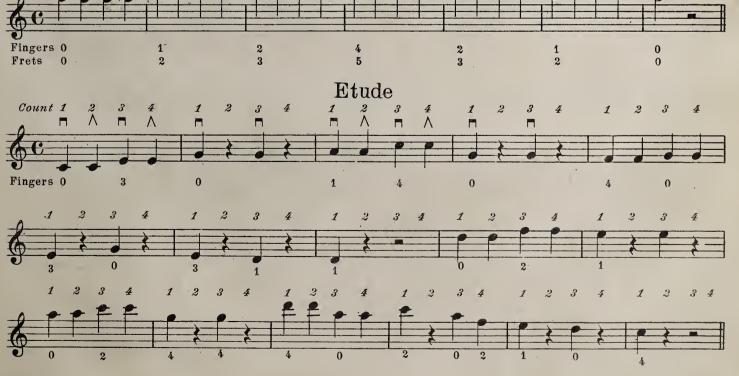
Notes on the 3rd String



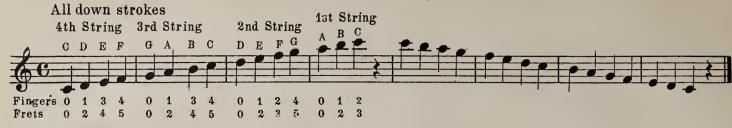
Notes on the 2nd String



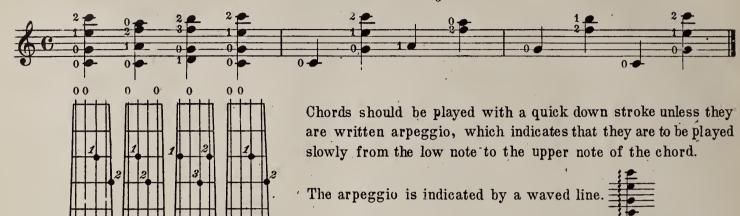
Notes on the 1st String



Scale in C Major



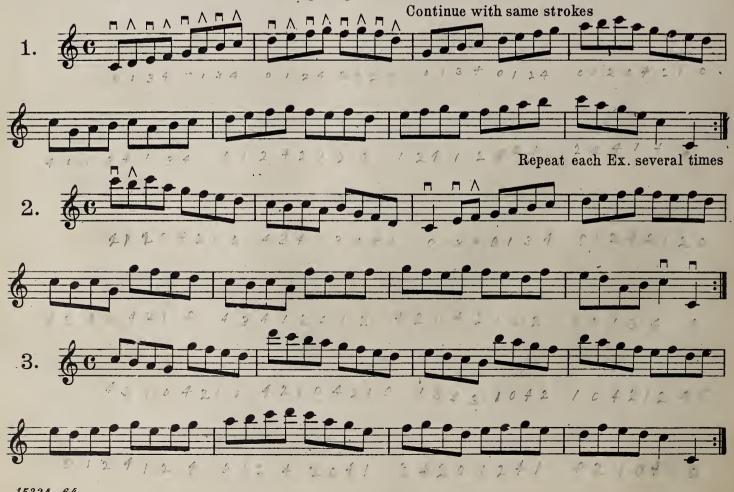
Chords in C Major

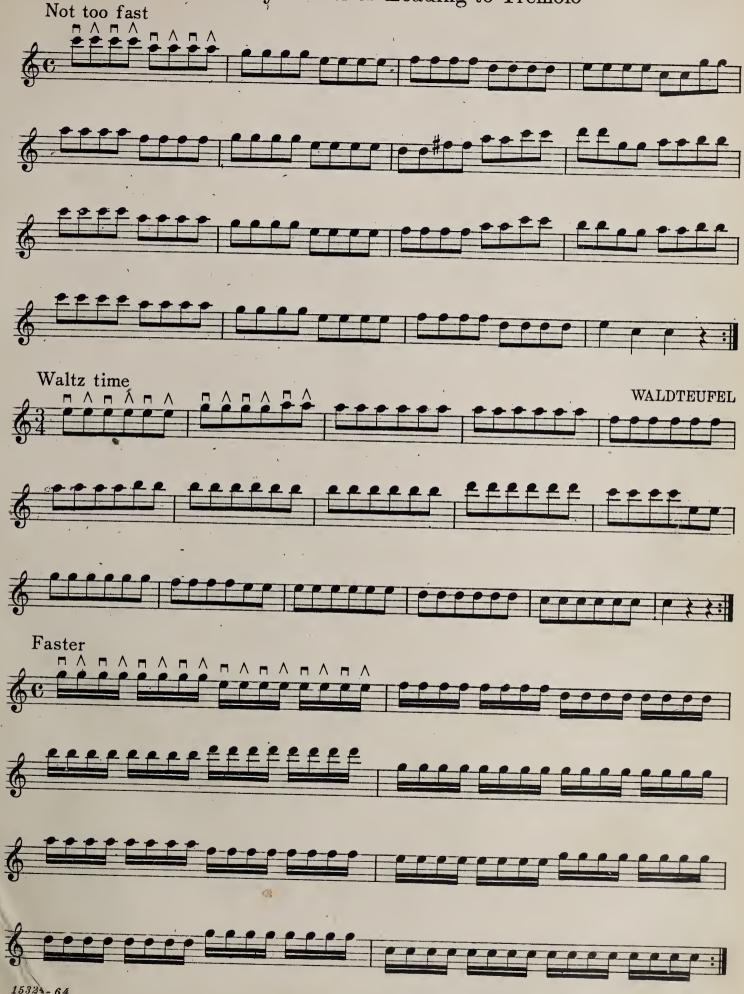


Scale Exercises

The student should write the fingering underneath the notes

G7





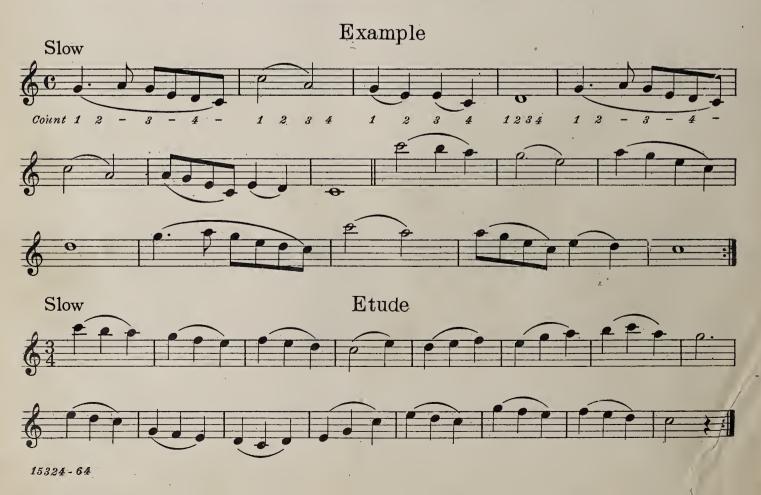
The Tremolo or Sustained Tone

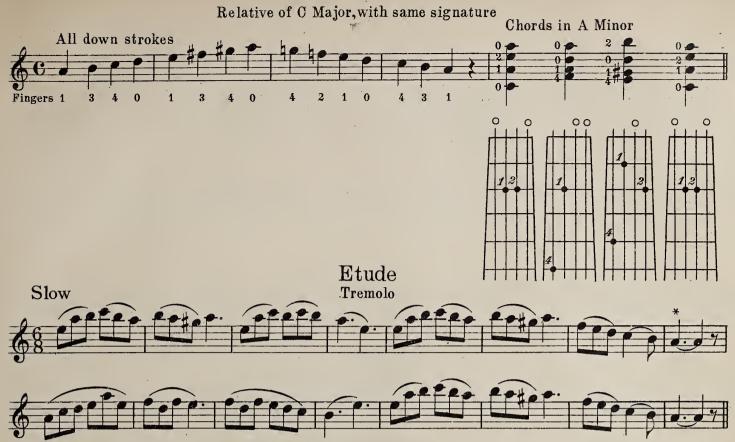
To attain proficiency in the tremolo, perfect evenness is necessary rather than speed. Always begin with a down stroke, ending with an up stroke, except in cases where the tremoloed note is tied over to a short note.

Tremolo Exercises

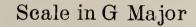


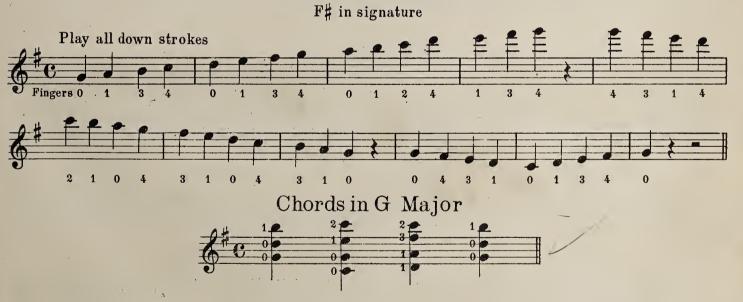
The slur is used to denote legato or smoothness. The tremolo should be centinued throughout the duration of the slur, stopping only long enough between to attack at the beginning of each slur.



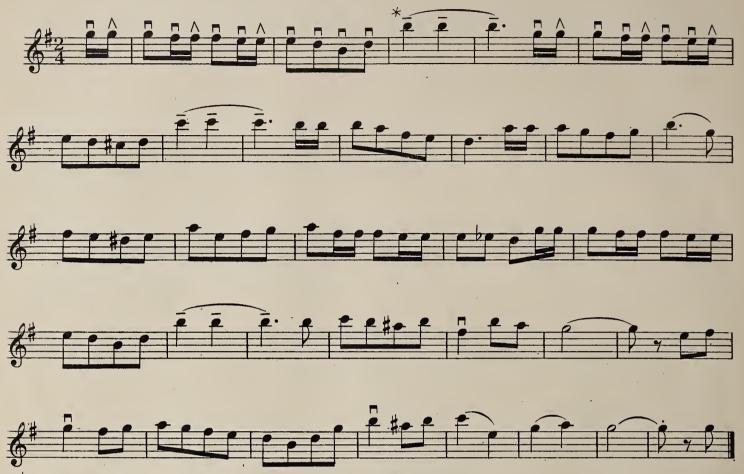


* When two notes of the same degree or letter are connected by a slur they are to be sustained throughout the time value.

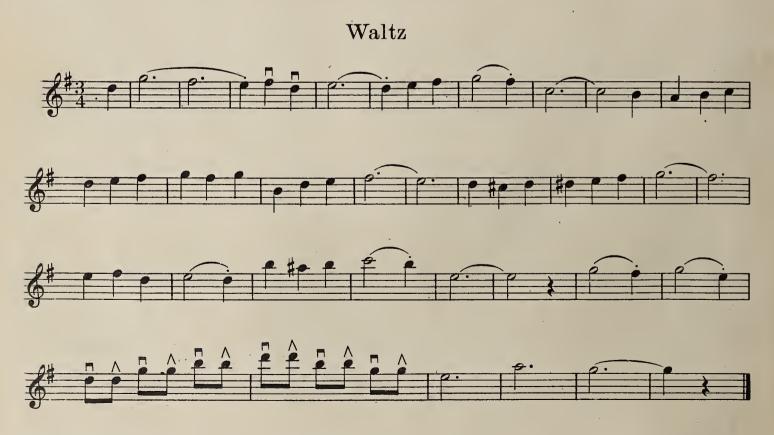




Melody Exercises in G Major March

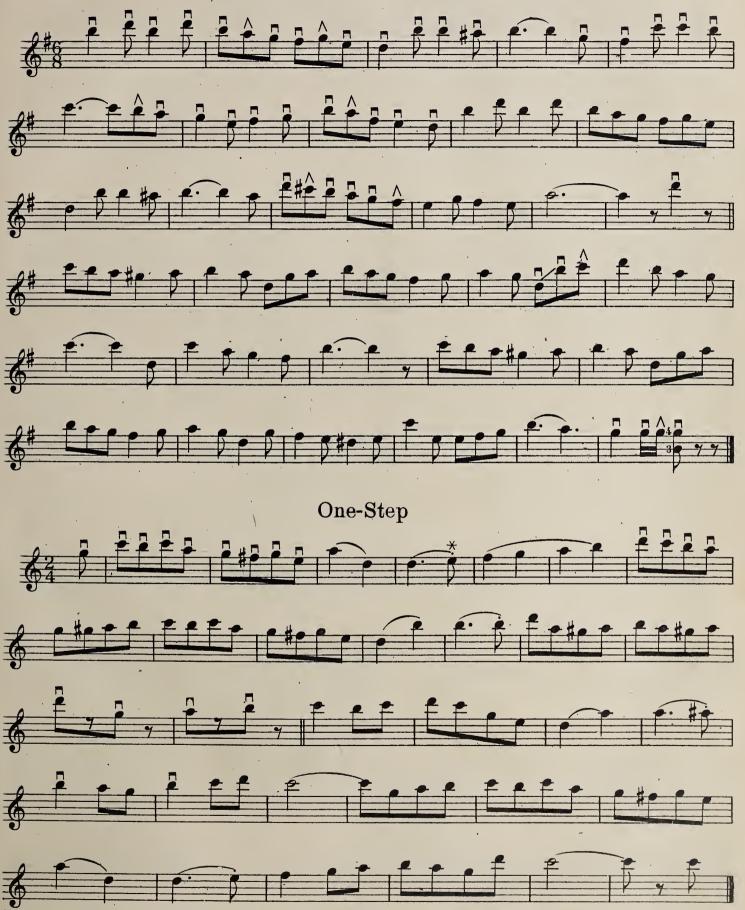


*A dash written over notes in slurred passages signifies that they are to be accented while played tremolo.



Exercises showing proper strokes on various movements as used by expert players in dance orchestras. Exercises in more difficult forms will appear later in this work.

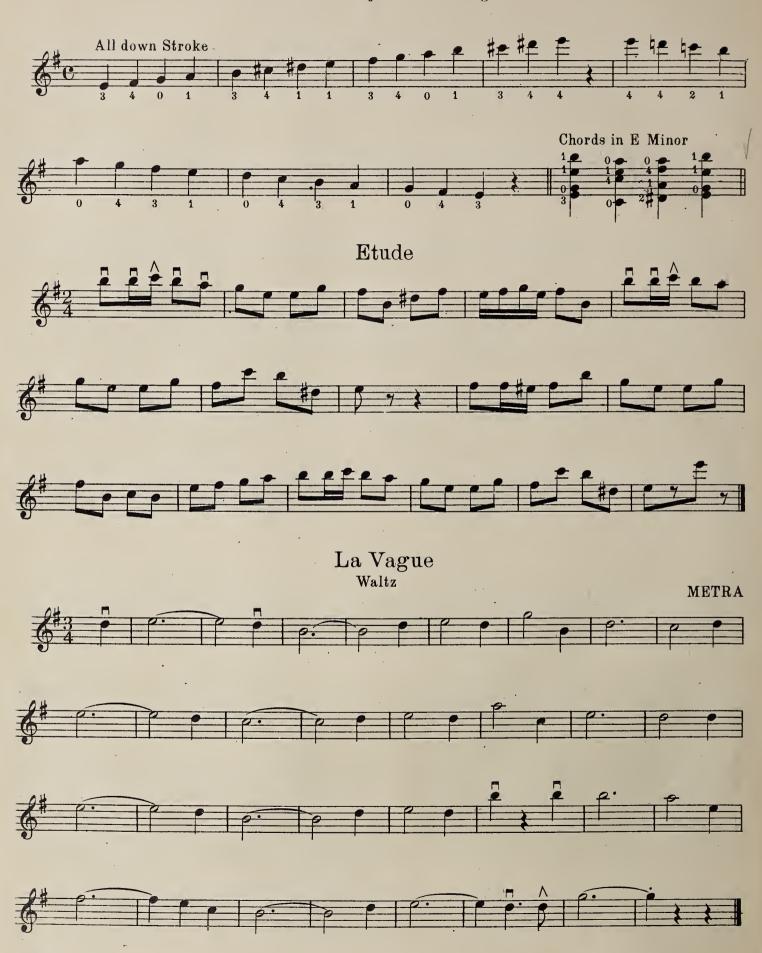
March or Two-Step



*A dot at the end of a slur indicates that the note is to be played down stroke.

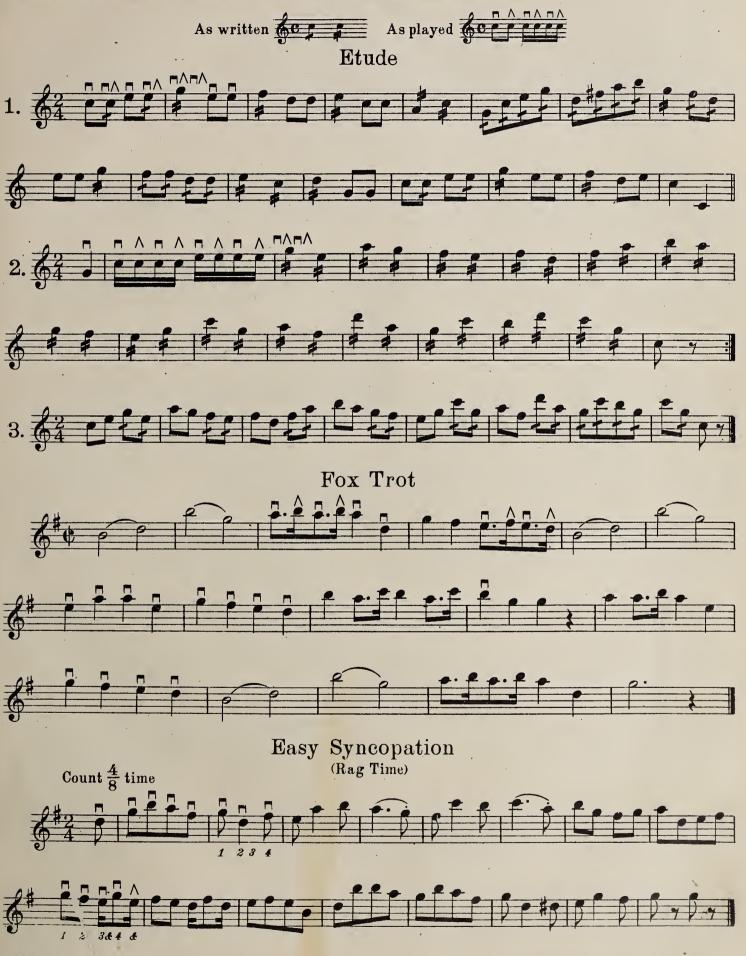
Scale in E Minor

Relative of G Major with same signature



Signs used in Abbreviating

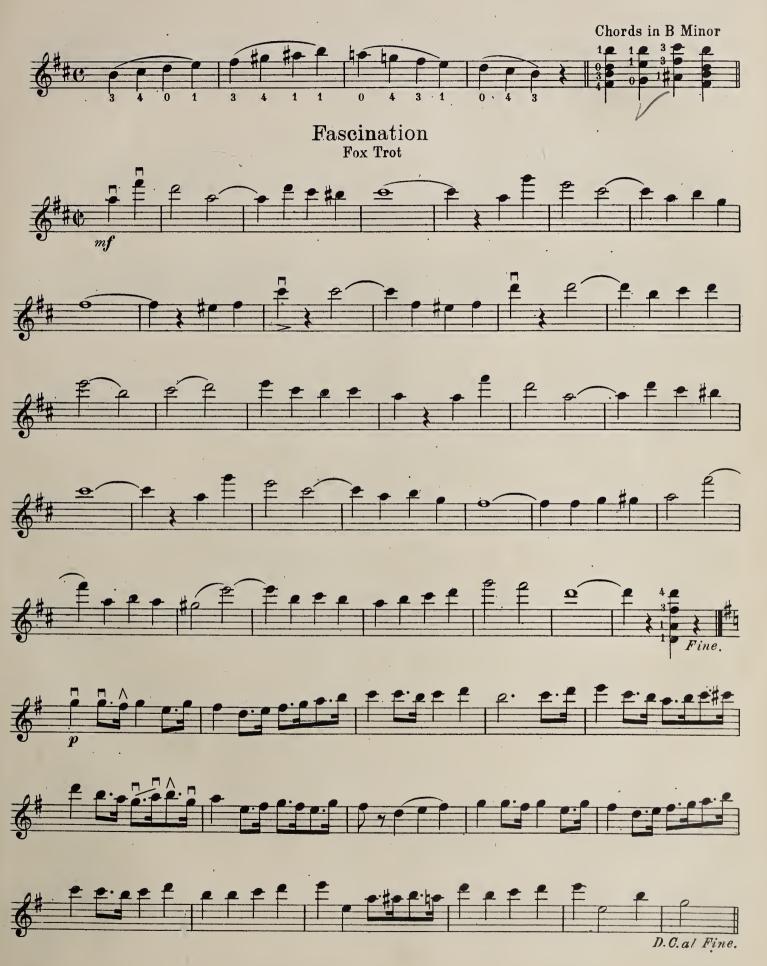
Lines drawn acoss the stems show that they are to be repeated as follows_

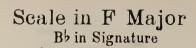


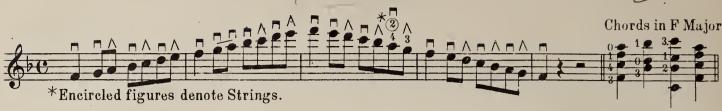
Scale in D Major F# and C# in Signature

To make even strokes play A on 2nd String in descending scale Chords in D Major Exercise in D Major Allegro Etude Polka Rosalie Waltz D. C. al Fine.
(Repeat from beginning to Fine) 15324-64

Scale in B Minor







Exercise in F Major



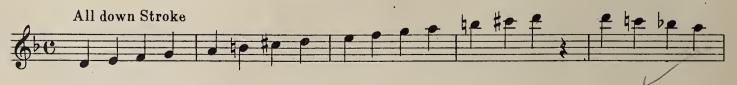
Melody with Chords



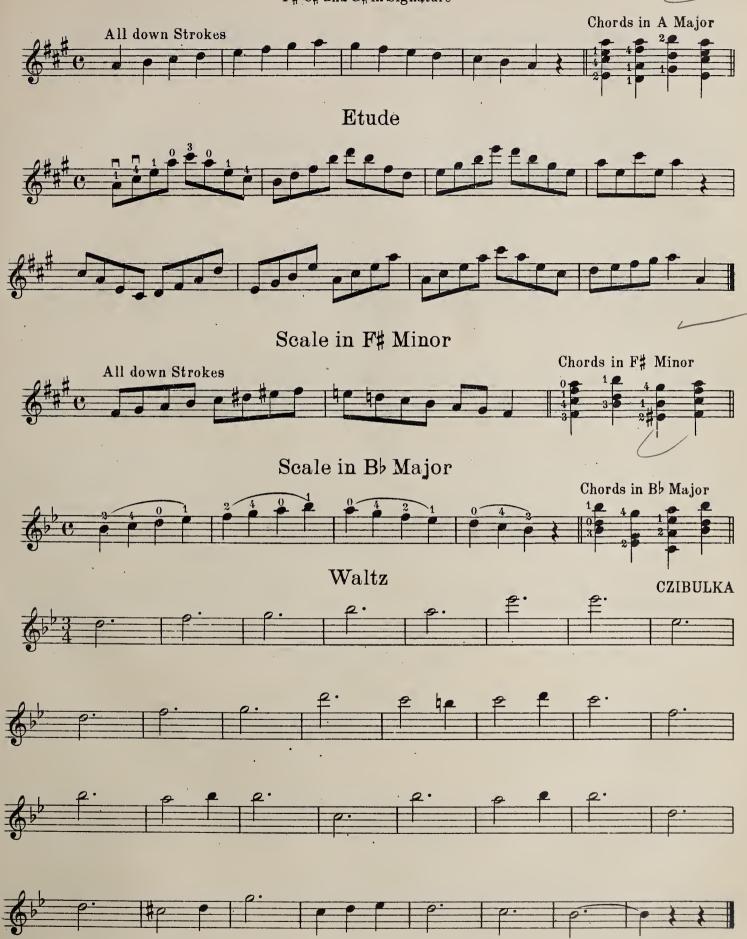




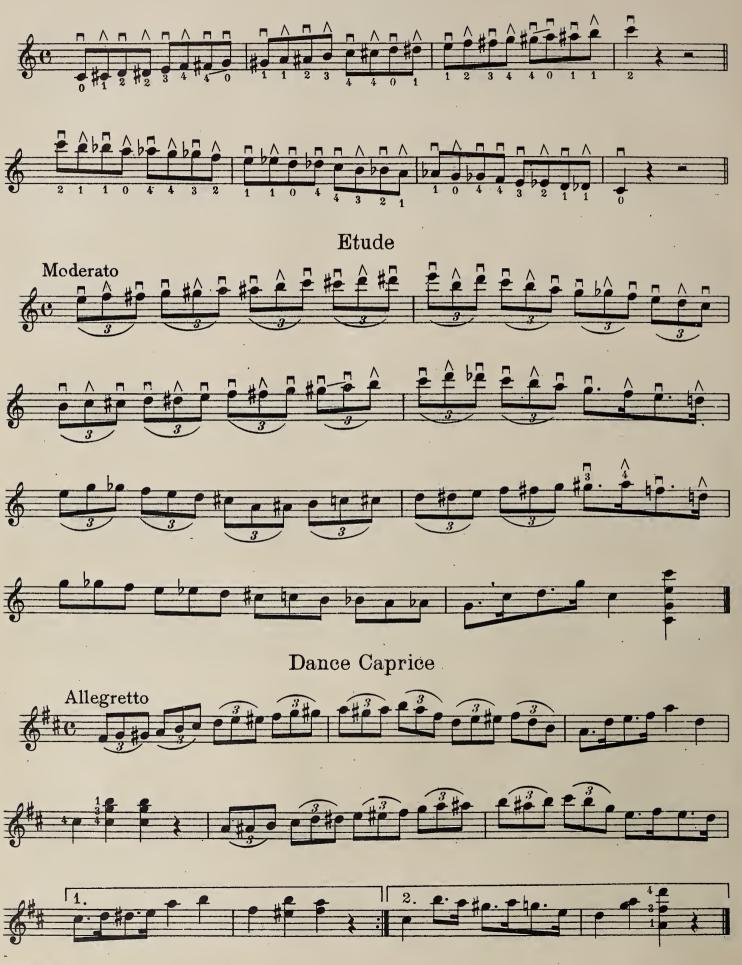
Scale in D Minor

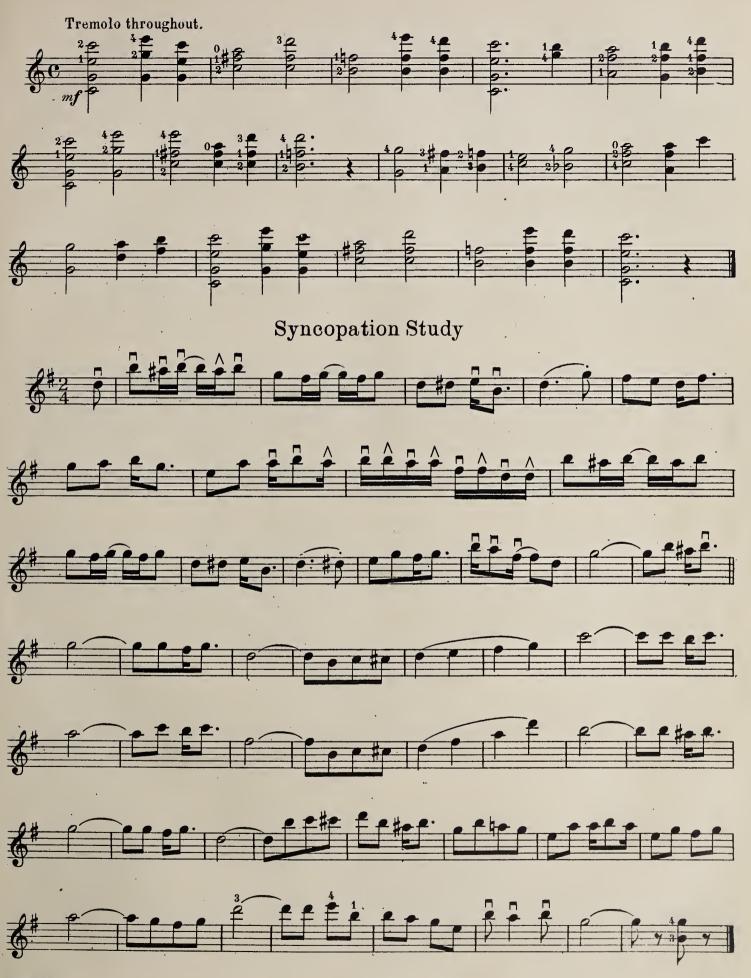




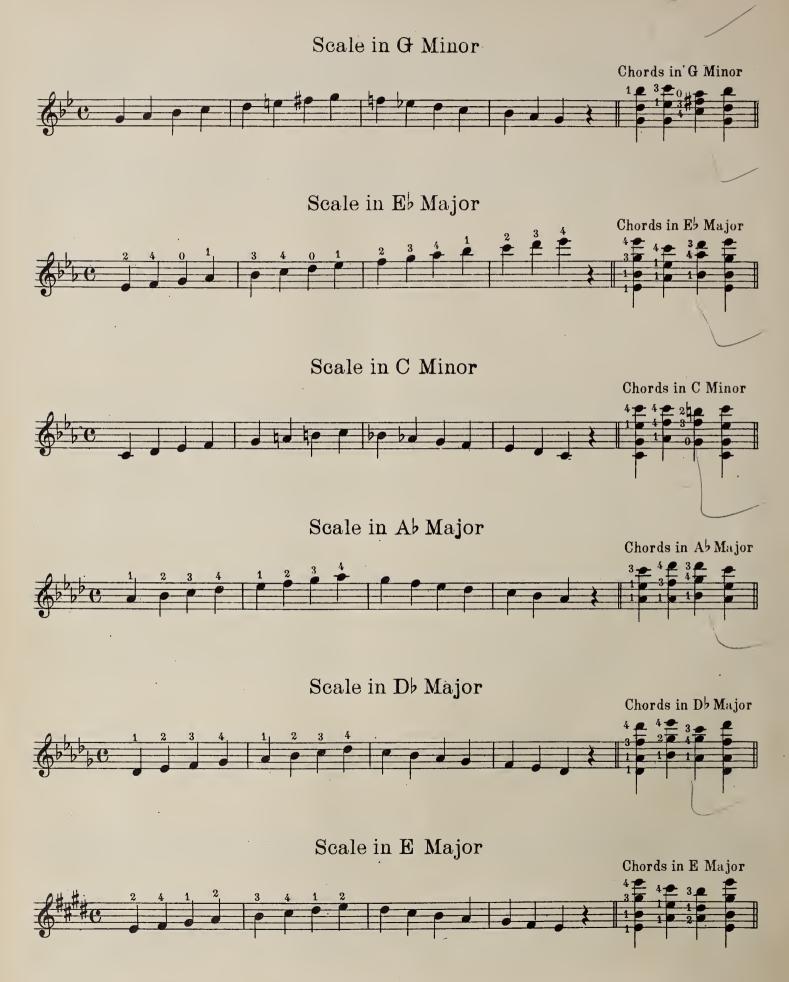


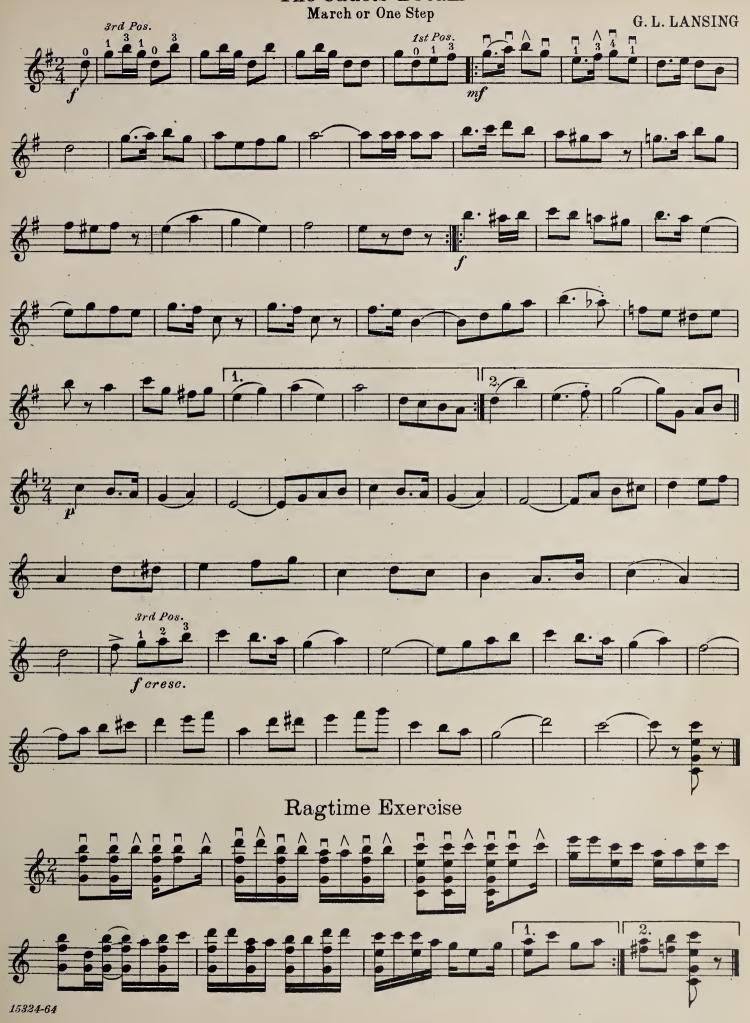
The Chromatic Scale



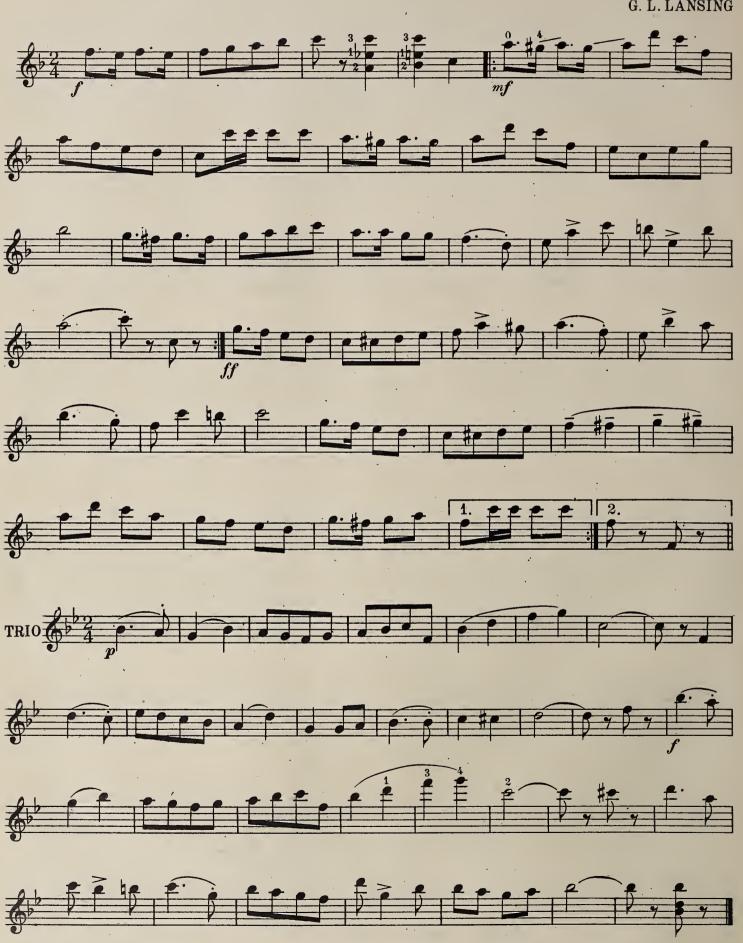


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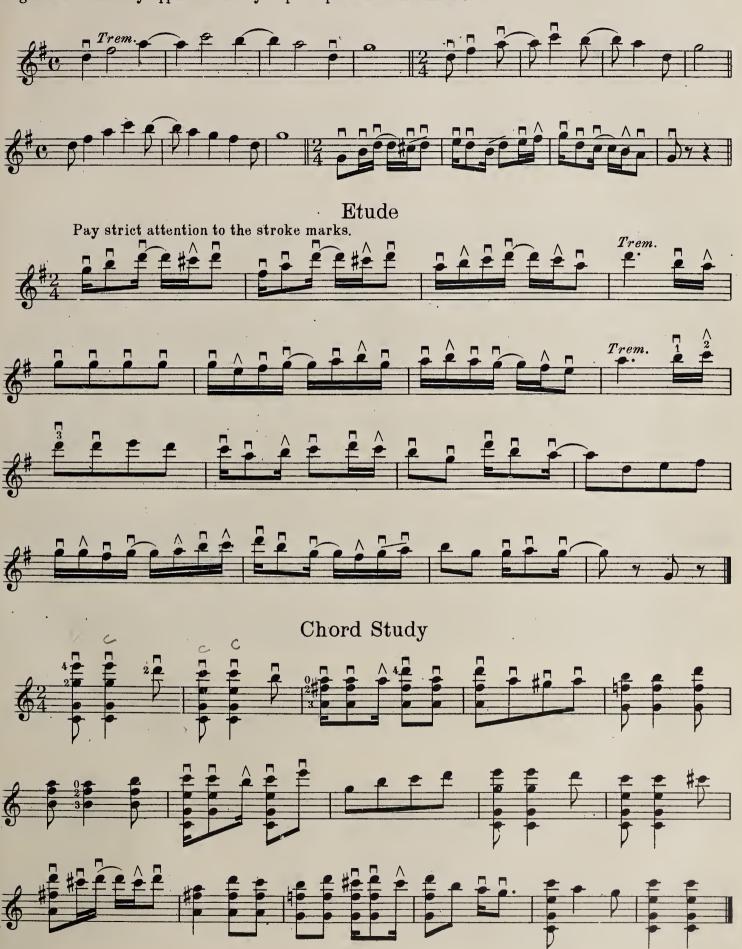


G. L. LANSING

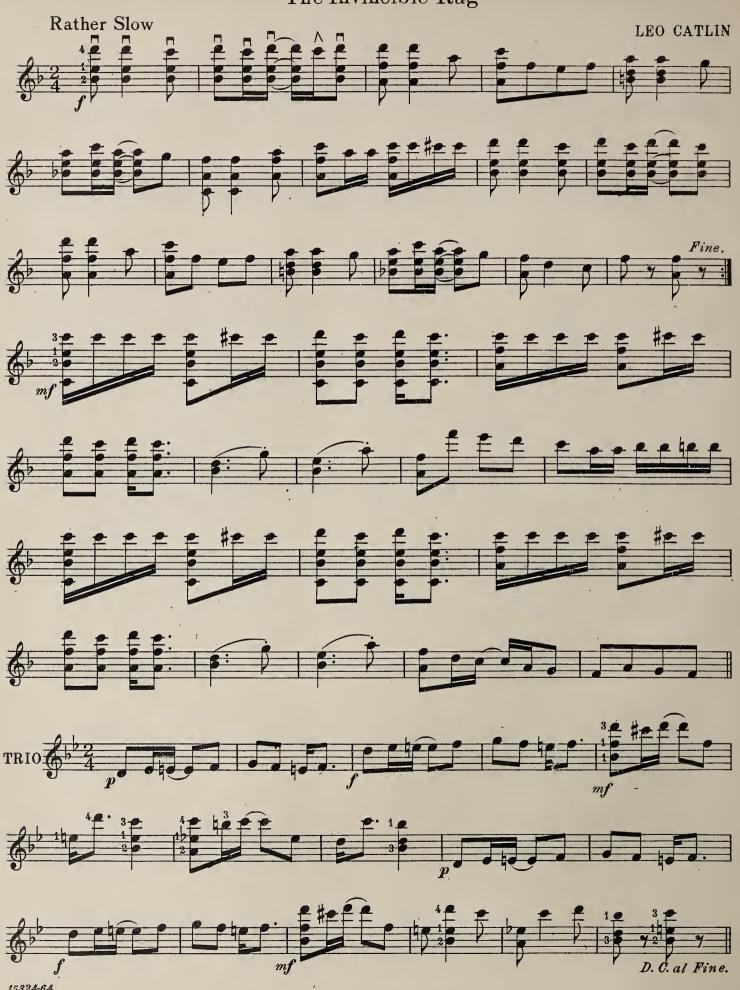


Examples in Syncopation

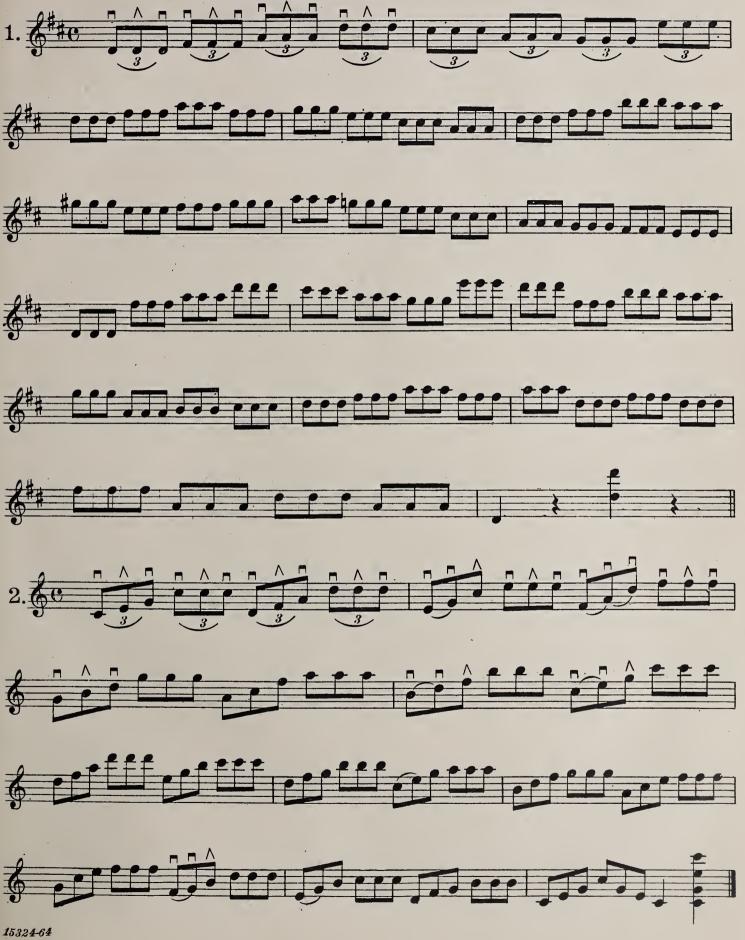
When the accent is changed so that it falls on an unaccented part of a bar it is called syncopation. The term rag time is commonly applied to the syncopated parts in dance music.



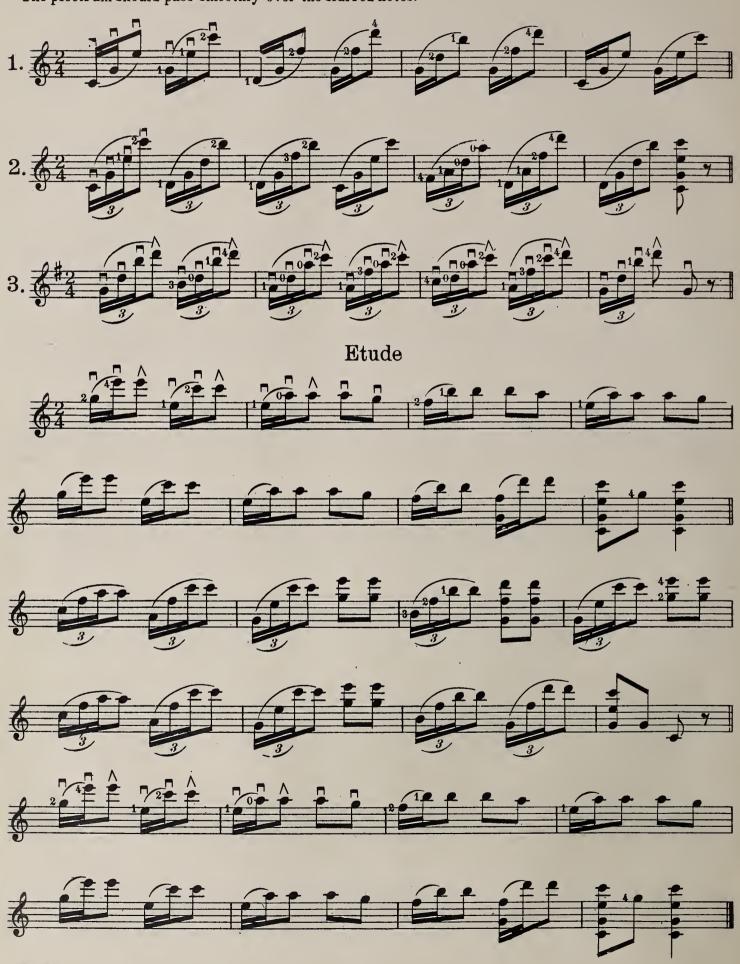
15324-61



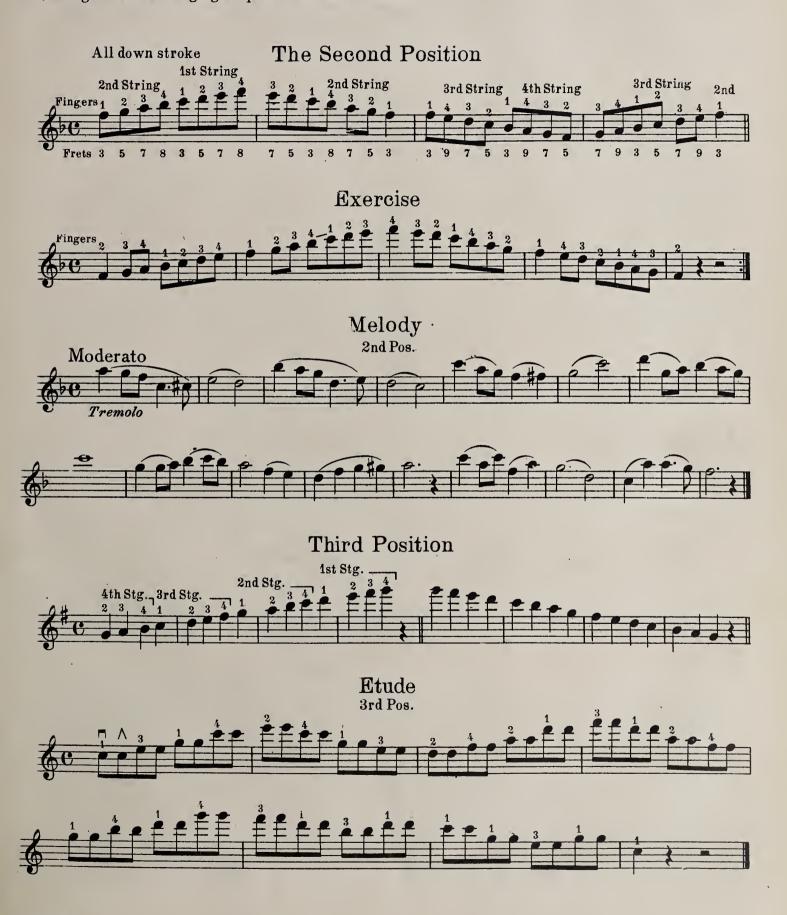
Begin first note of each triplet down stroke.



The plectrum should pass smoothly over the slurred notes.

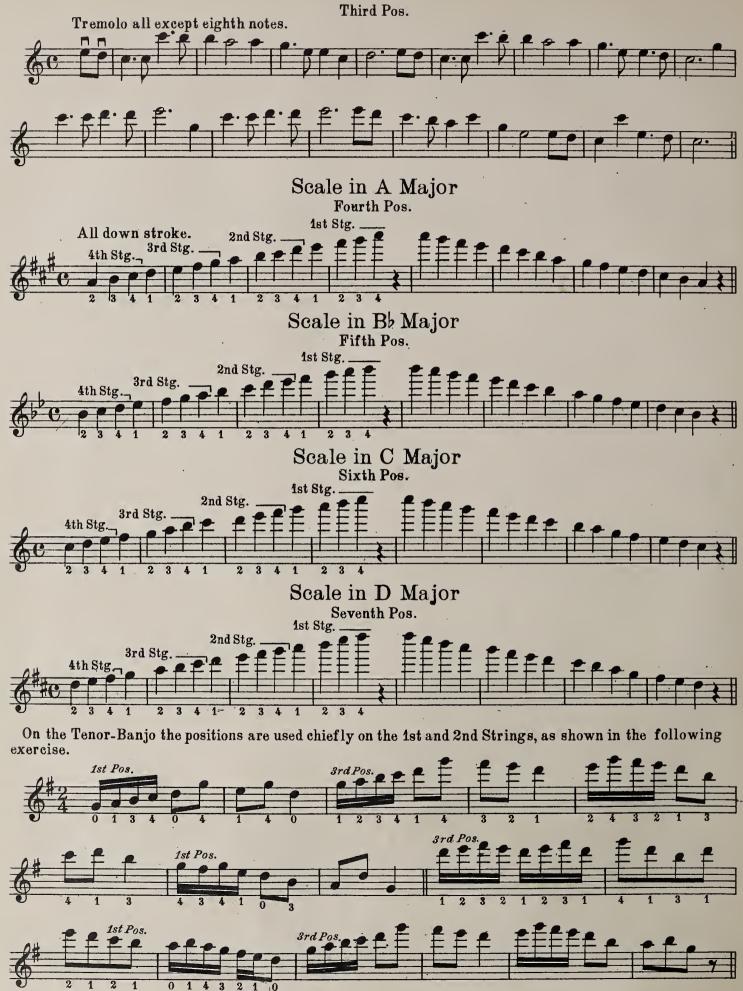


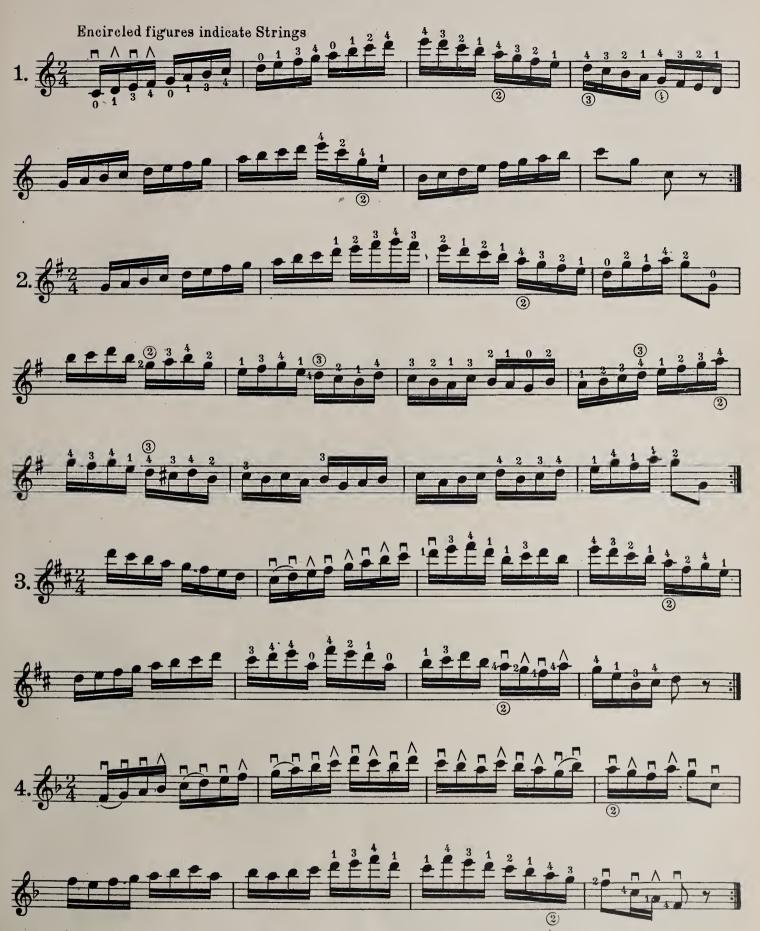
The compass of the Tenor-Banjo in the first position extends from C to upper D. When playing in the upper register it is often found more convenient to make the lower notes on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th strings without changing the position of the left hand.



15324-64

Annie Laurie





The method of stroking in No.4 exercise, is often required for obtaining the proper accent.

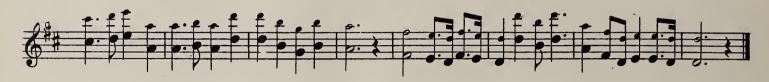
Transposing

When reading from Songs as published for Voice and Piano it is necessary to transpose the part an octave higher than written. This rule also applies to certain strains in first Violin parts as written for orchestra. The small notes in the following exercise indicates the notes to be played on the Tenor-Banjo. It is well for the Student to think of the letters in transposing.

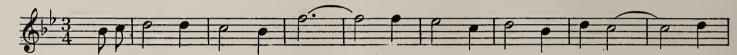
Old Folks At Home

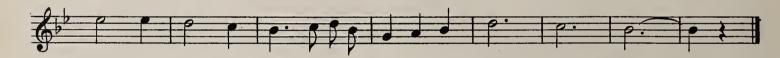
Play upper notes.





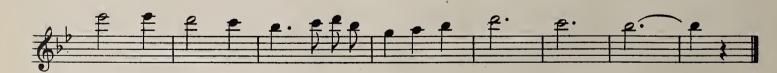
Melody as written for Voice.



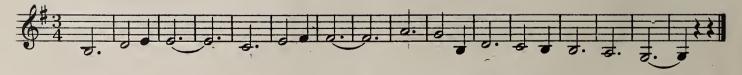


As played on Tenor-Banjo.

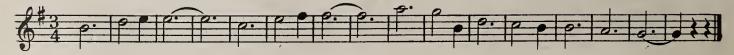




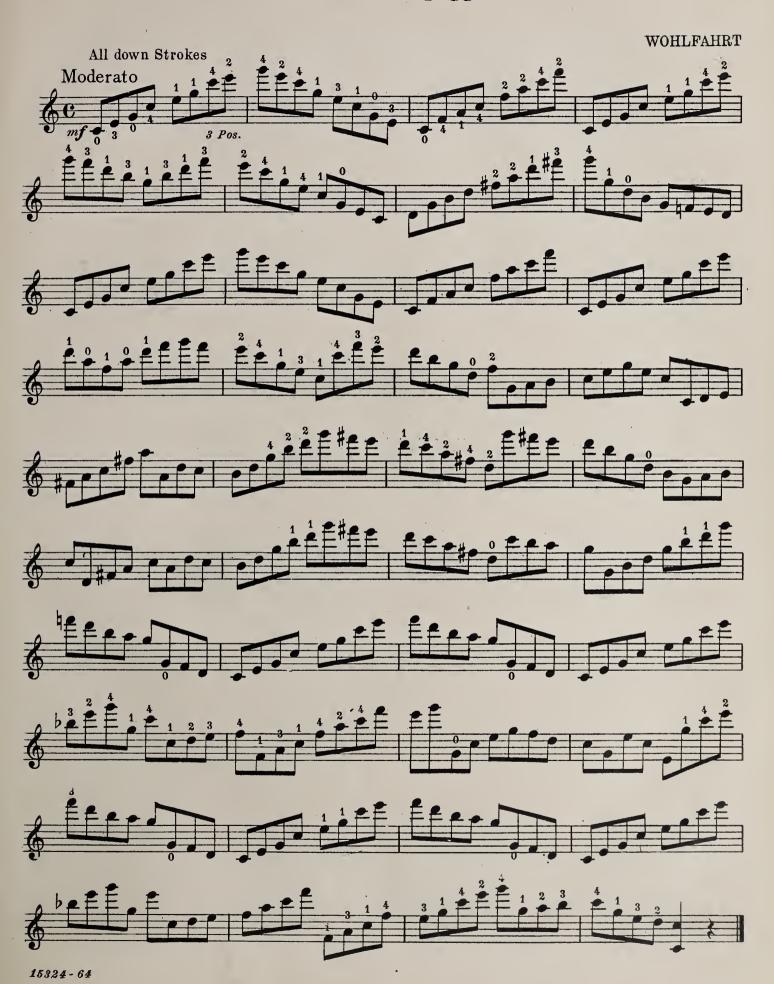
Skaters Waltz, as written for Violin.



As played on Tenor-Banjo.

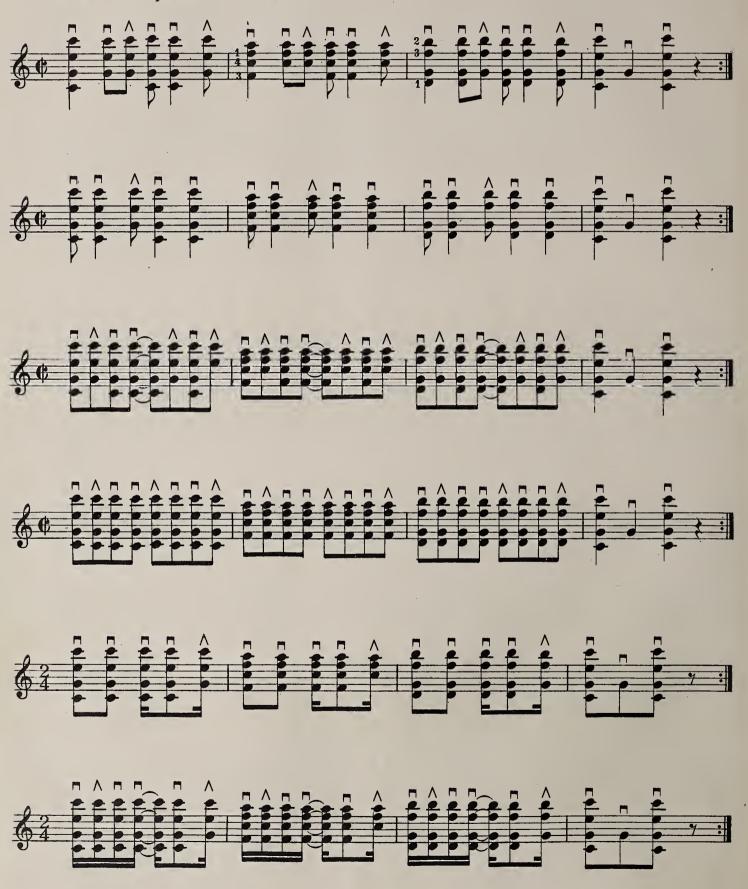


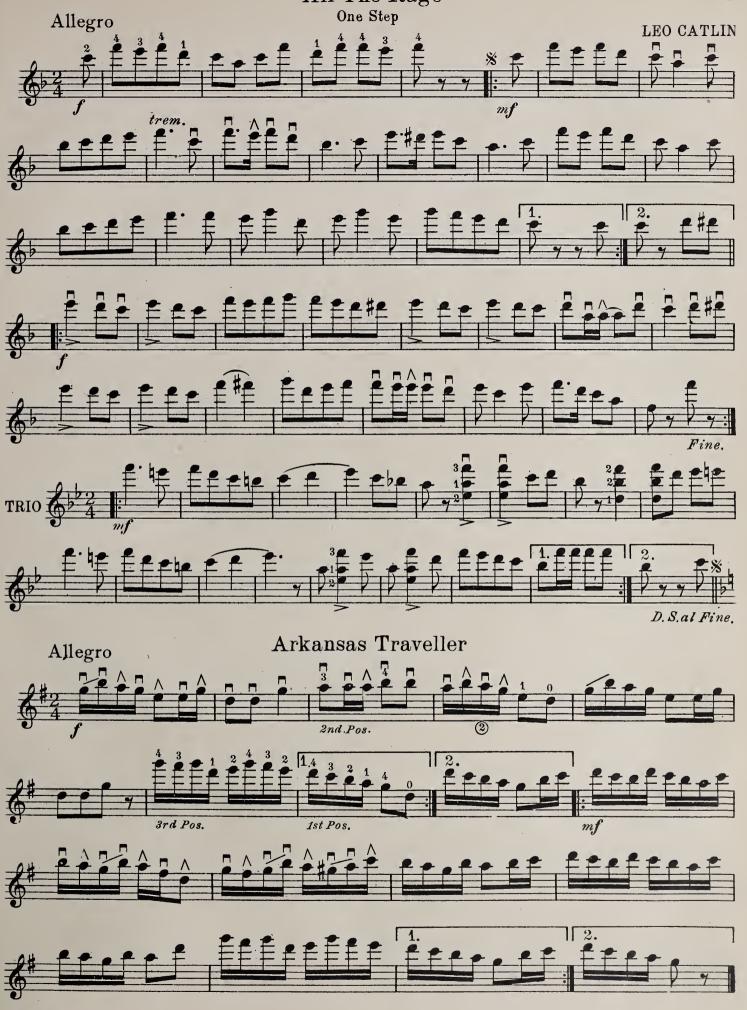
Exercise in Arpeggios



Exercise in Various Forms of Stroking

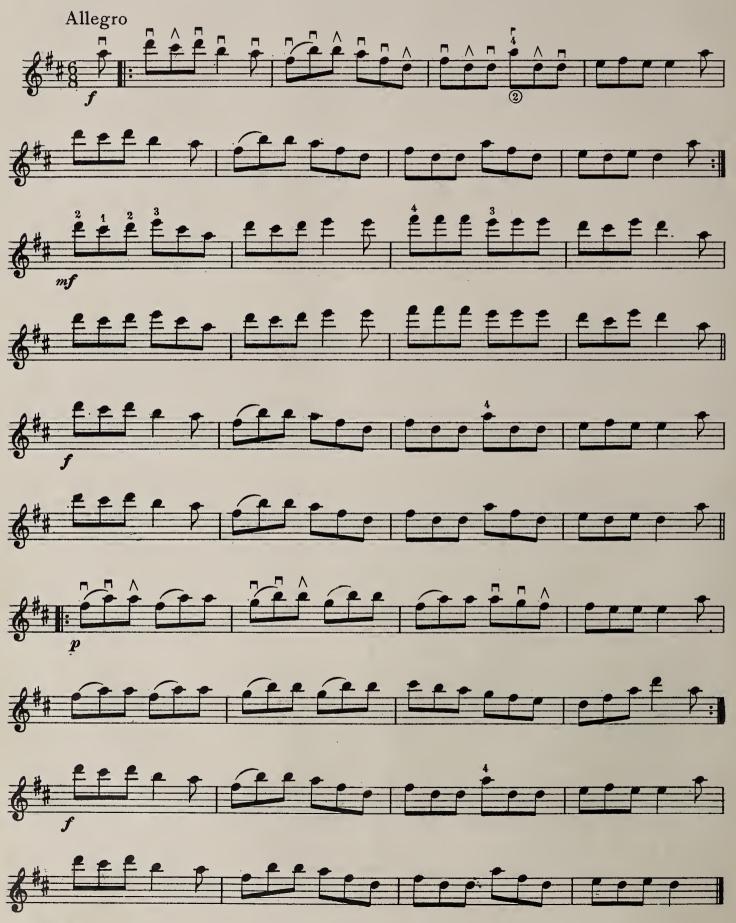
These should be practiced until each one is memorized





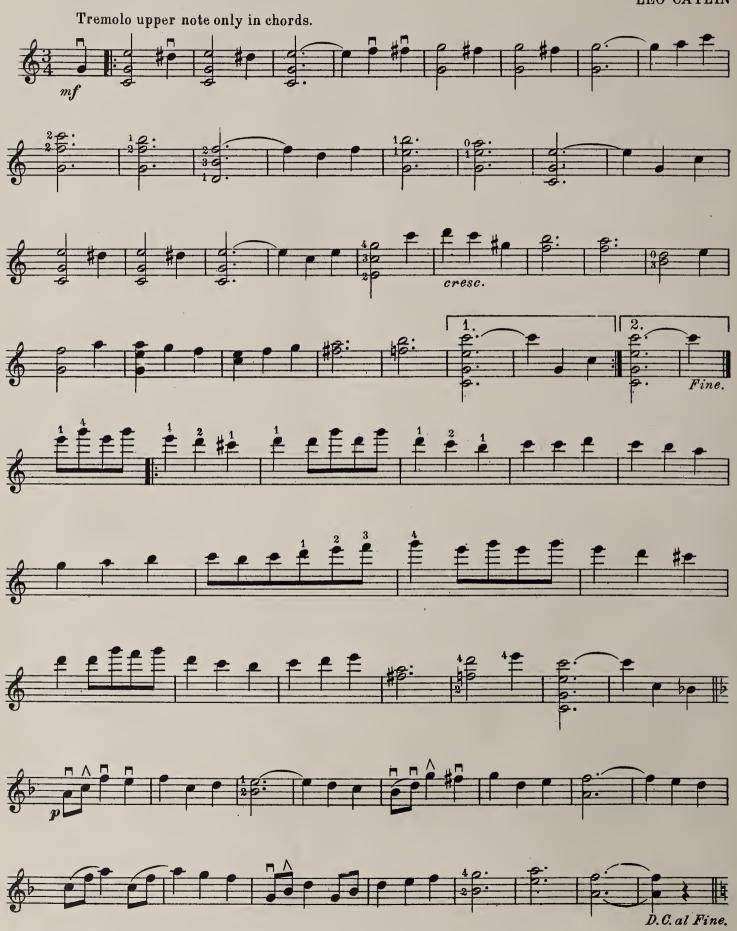
The Maid On The Green

Contra Dance

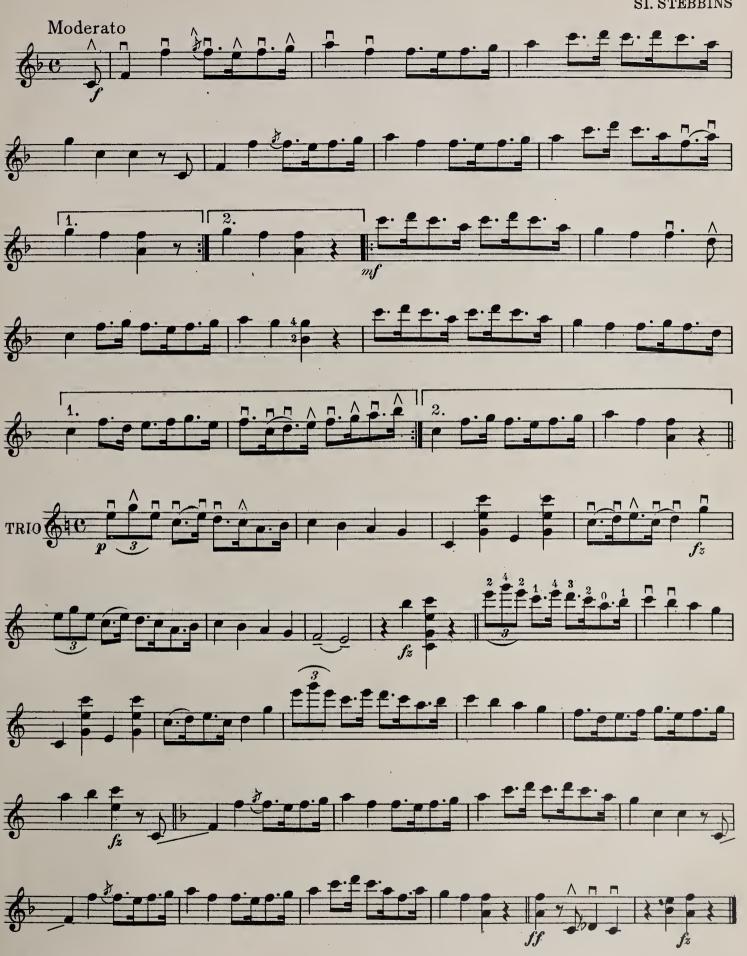


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LEO CATLIN

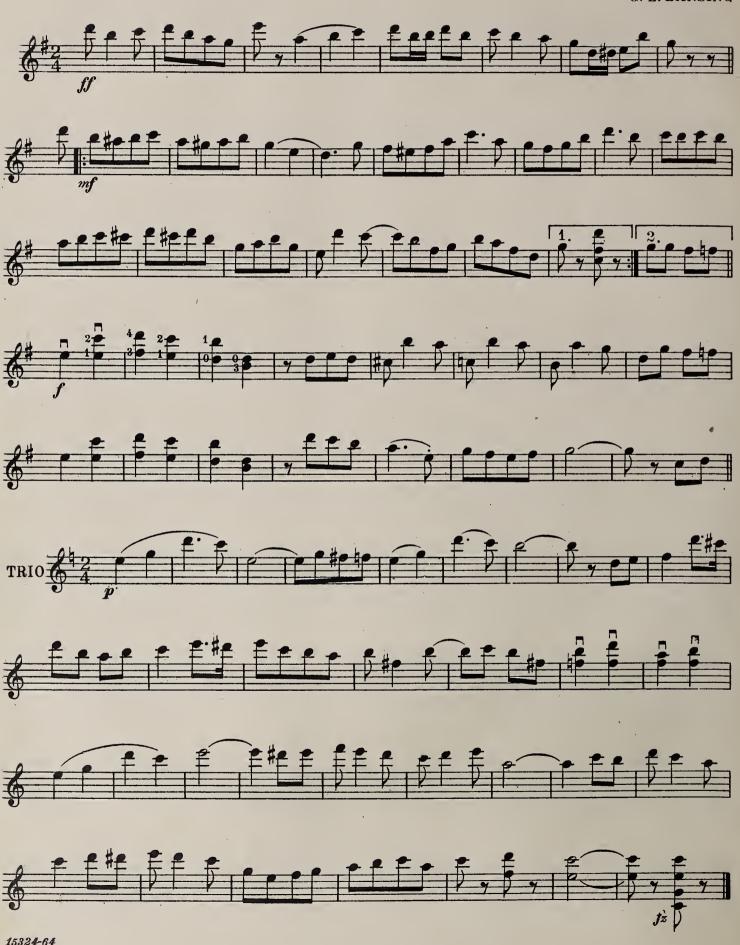


SI. STEBBINS

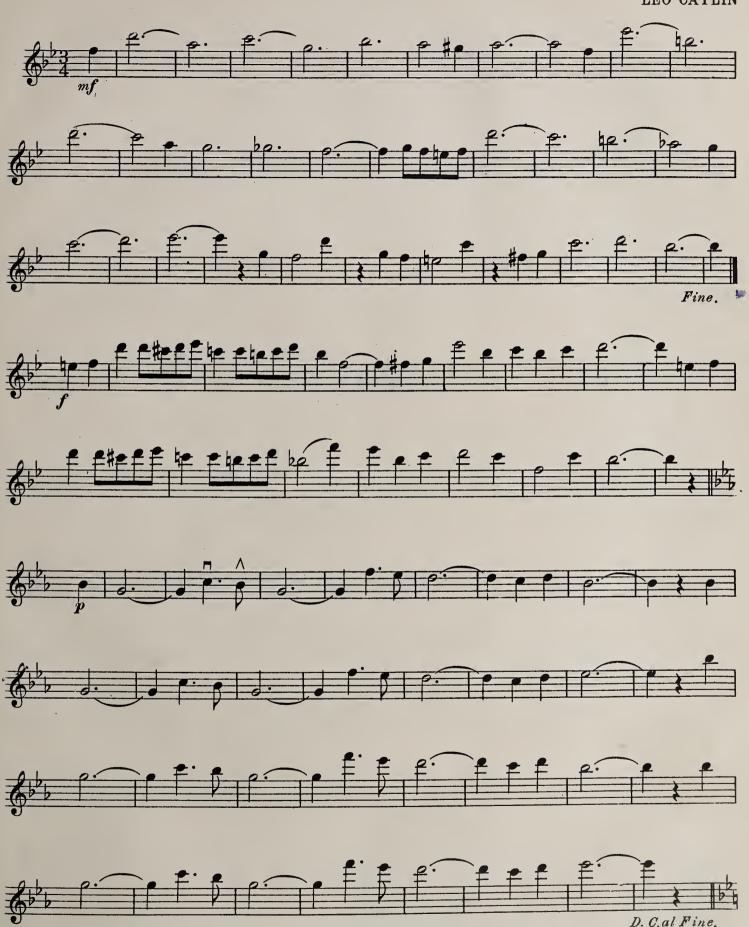


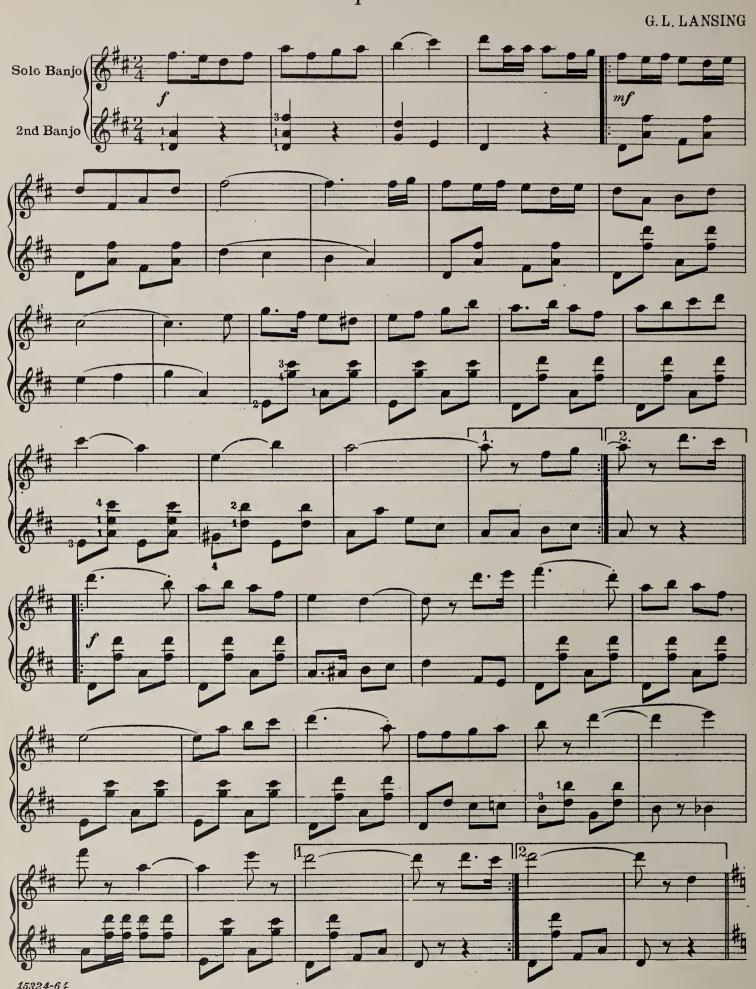
Honey Dew March and One Step

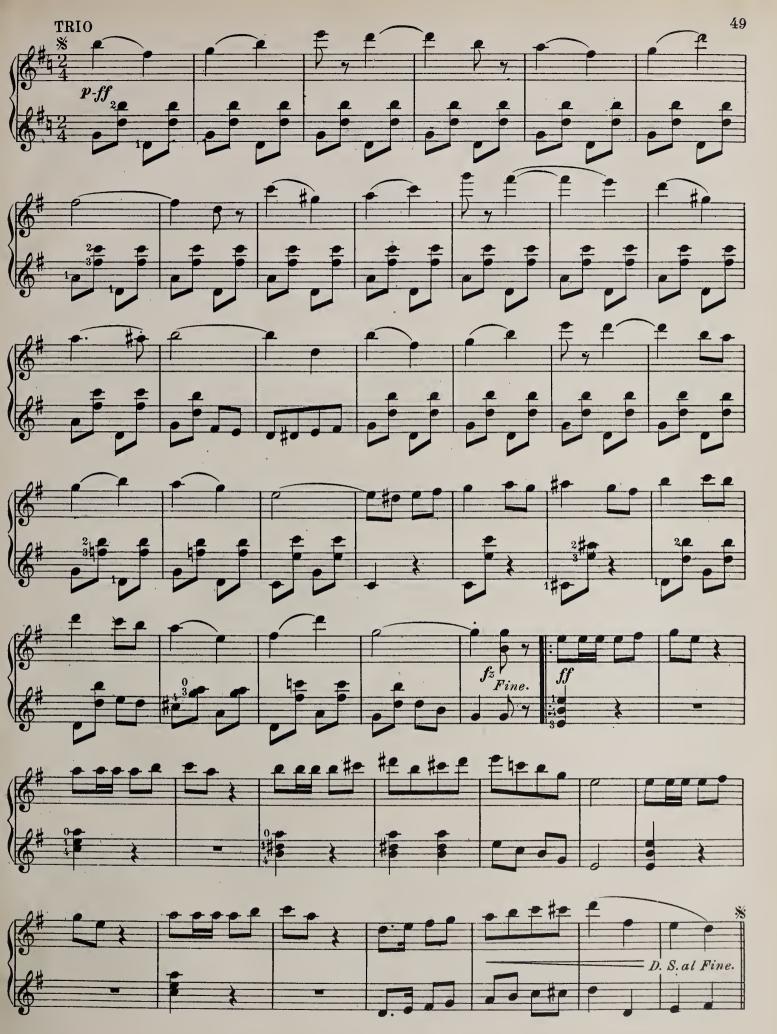
G. L. LANSING

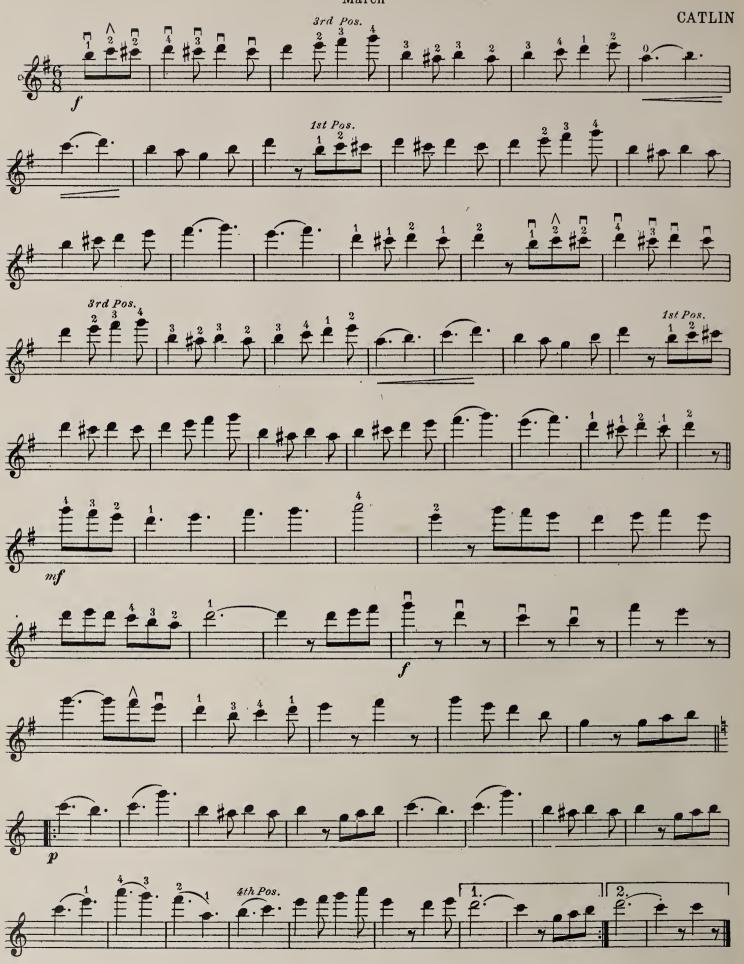


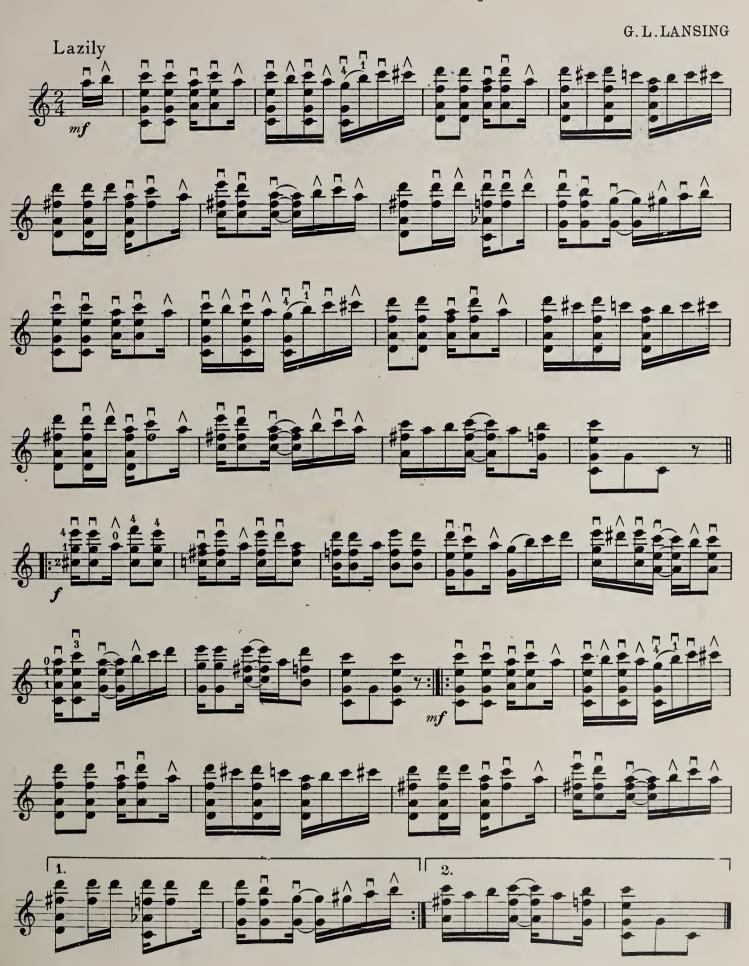
LEO CATLIN

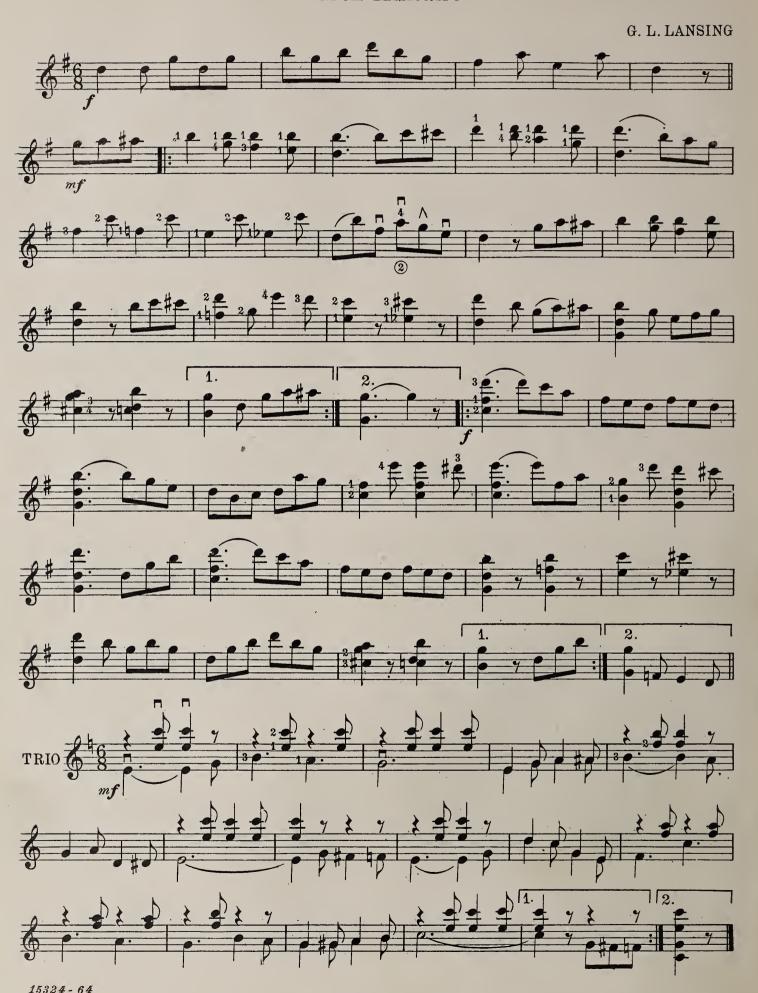


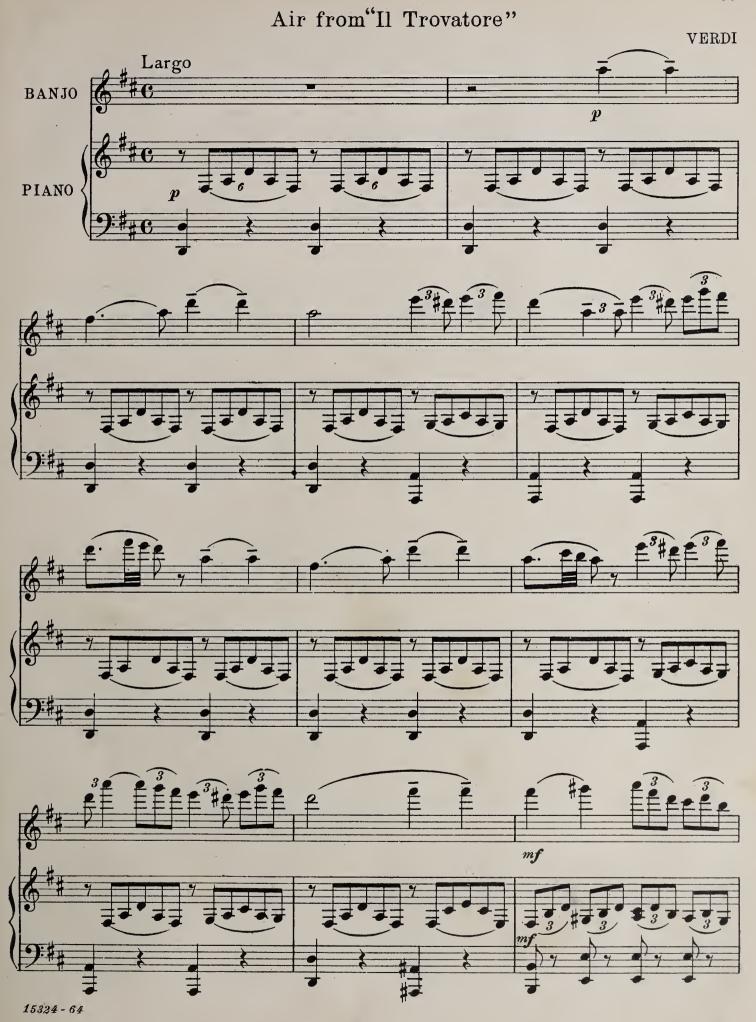






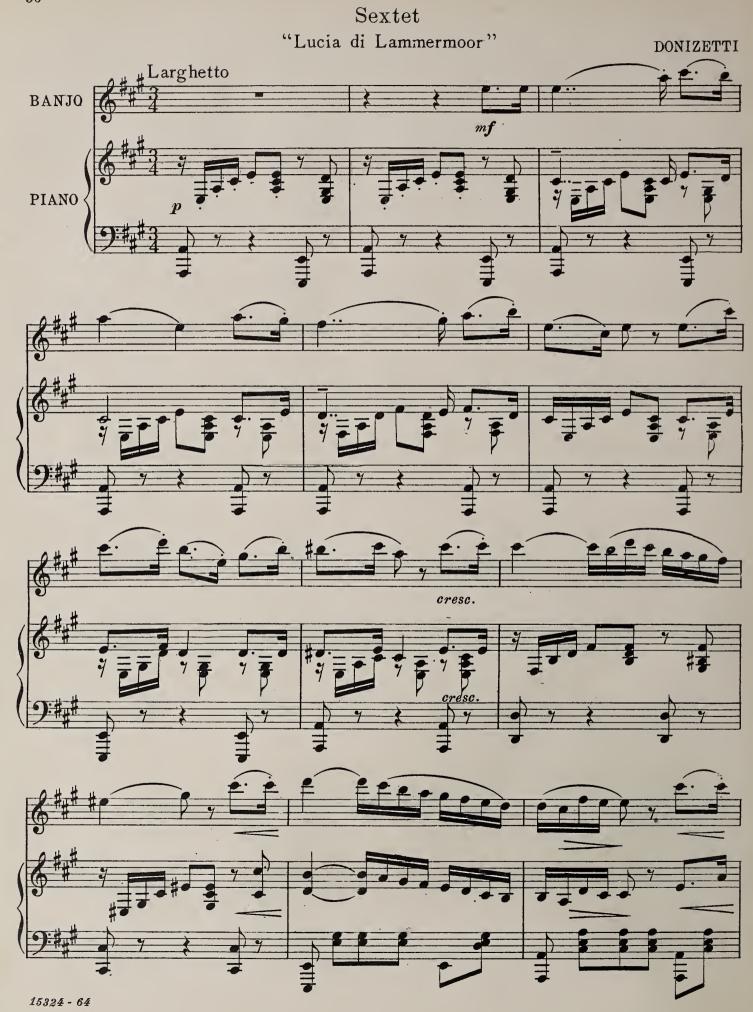


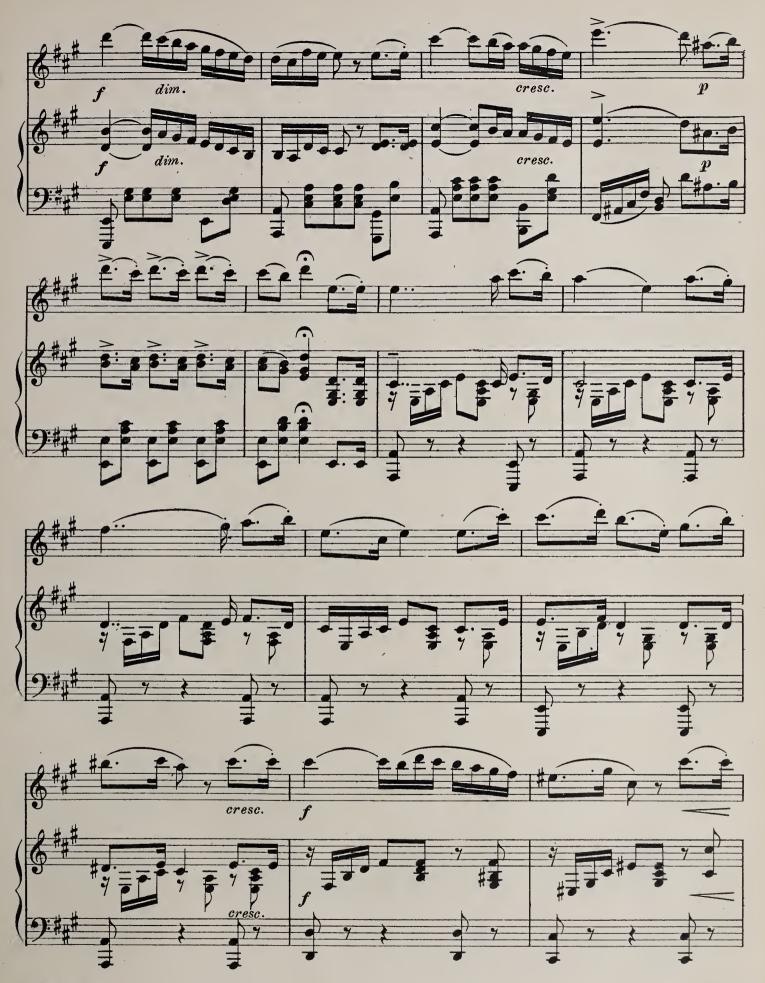


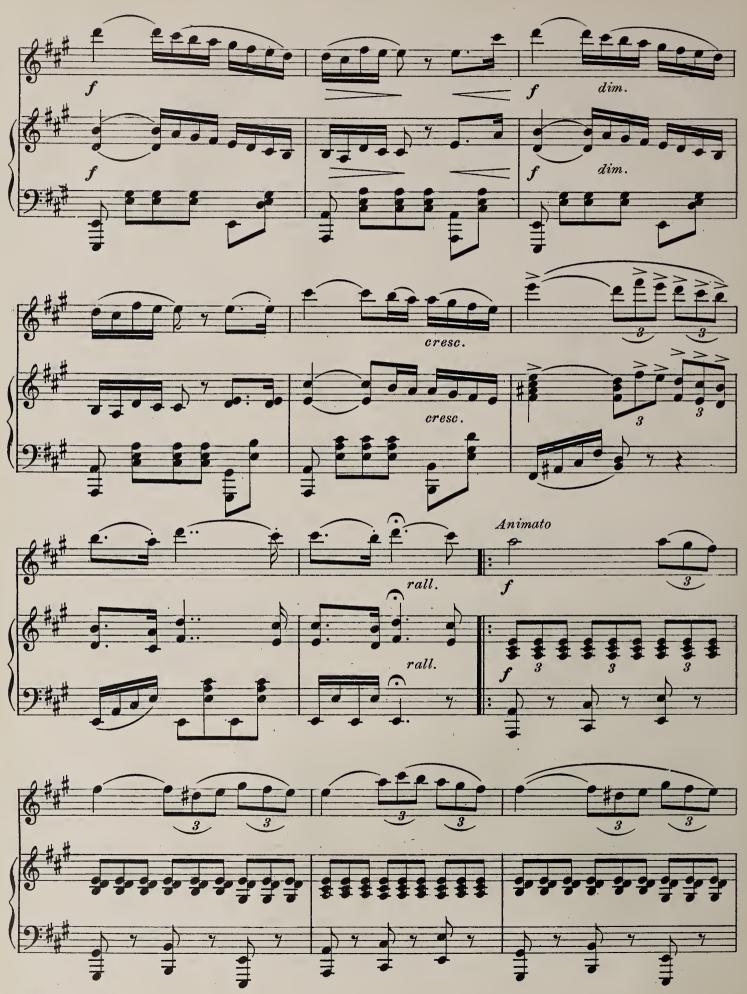


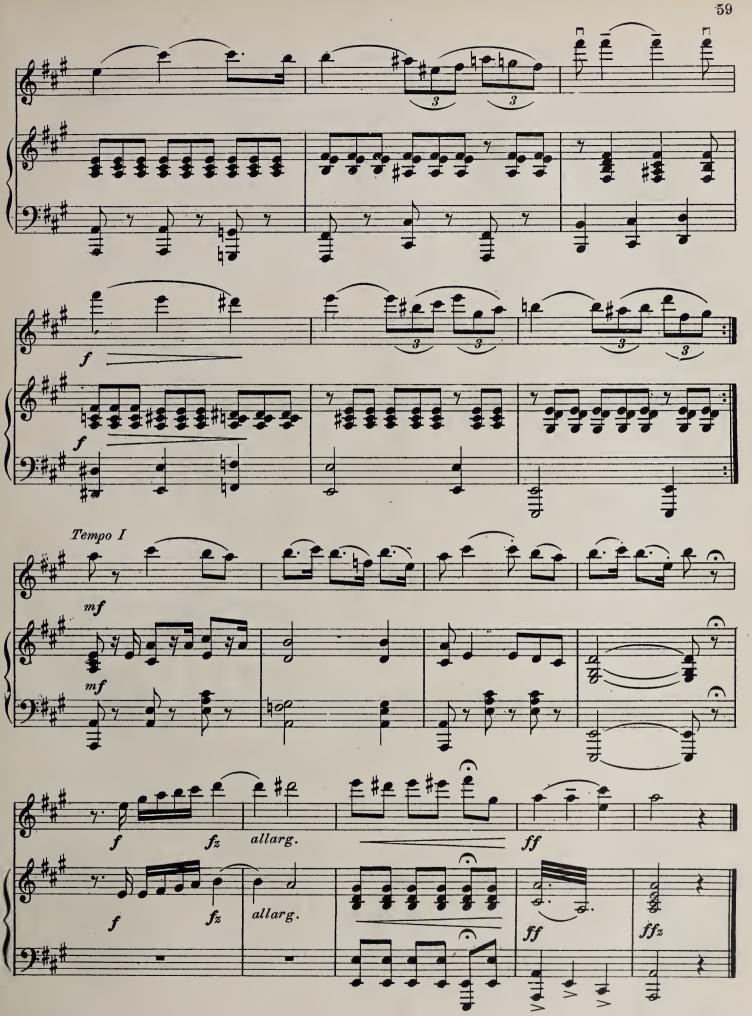












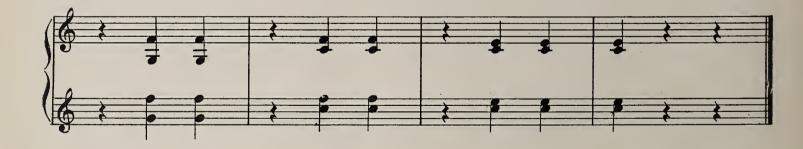
Jazzing

The term "jazz" as applied to banjo playing is, to use the chords with or without the melody according to the ability of the performer, ragging them when possible.

Some players have the faculty of anticipating chord sequences and obtain marked effects in this respect. However, when one has to depend on reading, the chords (without the melody) can be read from the second violin part, transposing the notes an octave higher than written as in the following exercises.

Waltz

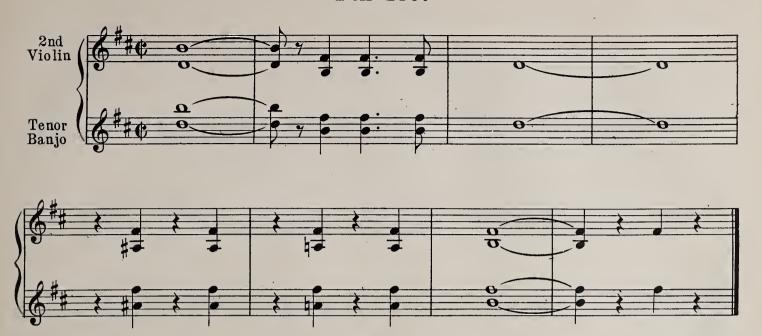




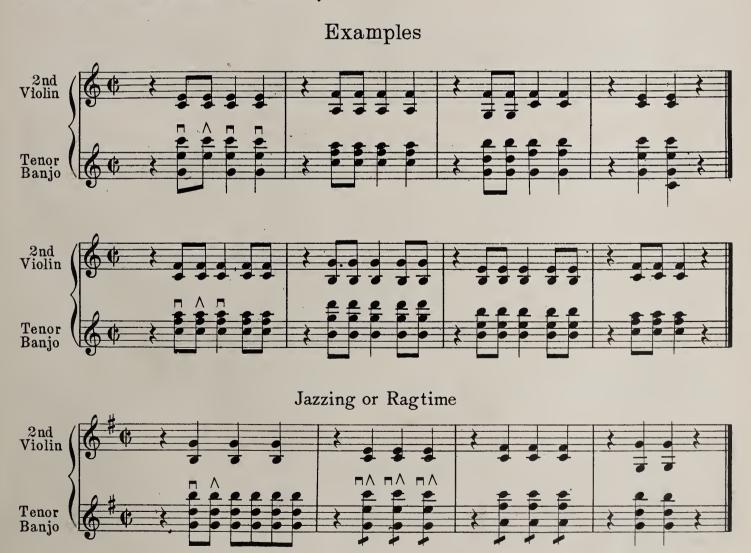
One Step



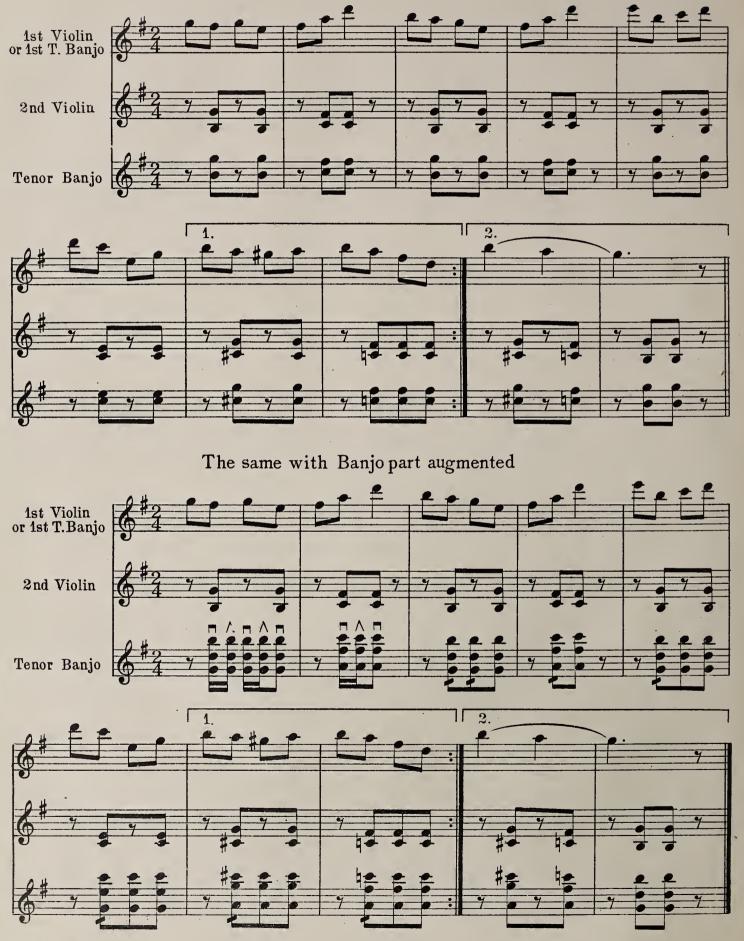
Fox Trot



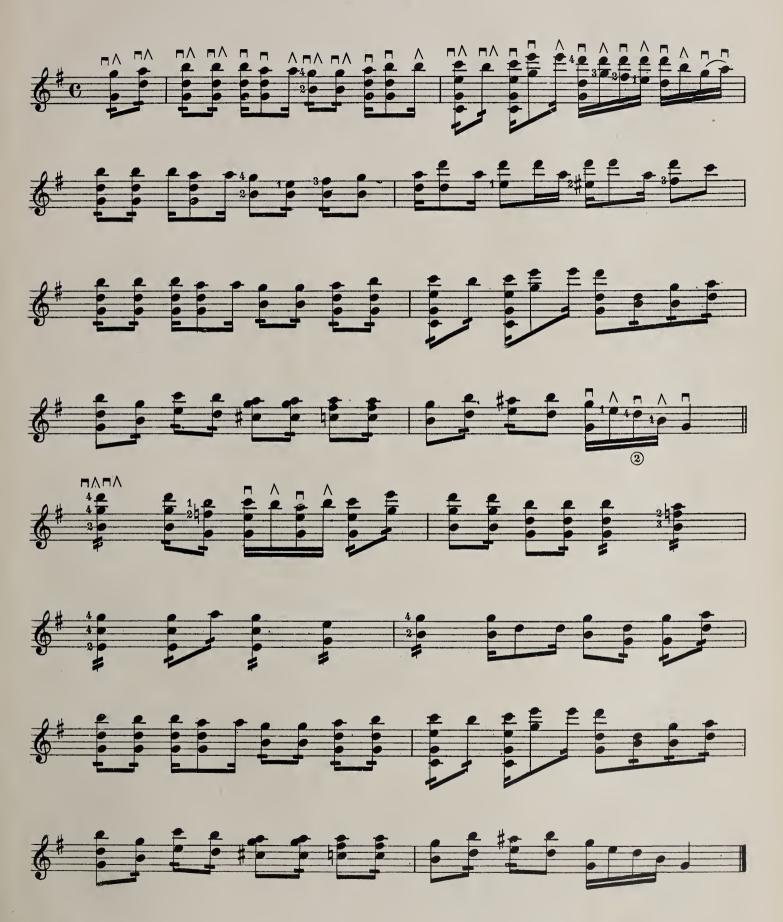
The pupil should memorize the chords in the various keys, thereby enabling him to add one and sometimes two notes to obtain full harmony.



One Step Simple Form



My Old Kentucky Home with Jazz effects



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