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#### ARDROSS HOUSE

48 Fairview Way, Stafford ST17 OAX



- violinists join recorders in the school assembly

# Kerry Milan

a selection of FESTJVAL favourites, old and new, with specially written parts to involve beginners from the very first term.

The accompanying sound files can play back the instrumental parts and piano accompaniment, together or separately.

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There is a list on page 17 indicating some of the publications which include the words and accompaniments for these songs. This selection for *Celebration String Hosanna* has been carefully made so as not to infringe other people's copyright; but if this has happened inadvertently credit will be given in any further edition. Stuart Johnson's "Infant Songs for Harvest Halloween and Guy Fawkes" is available from Staffordshire Music Service. With the exception of "Guy Fawkes" all the violin parts are my own, as are all the performances. There are no restrictions on their non-commercial use within schools

## All Things Bright and Beautiful

This tune goes along at a fairly lively pace - just enough time to remember the F# / C finger patterns.

For beginner violins, this is an exciting open-string accompaniment, very similar to that for "Lord of the Dance" in String Hosanna. Each verse could have a different rhythm if preferred. It does not matter that at the very end the beginners have the final say!



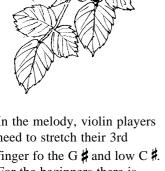




## The Good Things of the Earth

3 Verses





In the melody, violin players need to stretch their 3rd finger fo the  $G \sharp$  and low  $C \sharp$ . For the beginners there is another open string accompaniment, this time with a steady off-beat rhythm.

#### The Harvest Festival

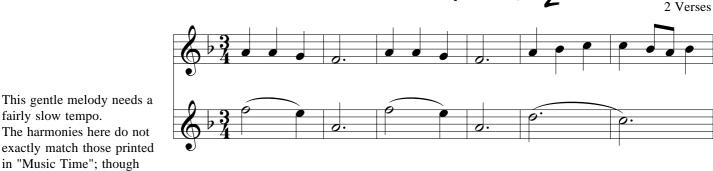
6 Verses



Not all verses of this short piece need the semiquavers!



crotchets are not disturbed by the quicker moving notes above.



fairly slow tempo. The harmonies here do not exactly match those printed in "Music Time"; though they can be used together.

Violinists need to draw their first finger well back, not just for the B > s of the melody, but also for the high F s of the second part, which is not for real beginners.



Summer Goodbye

## Now We Sing a Harvest Song

This is another tune with Bb;; but for the second violin part the main point to remember is the low 2nd finger - on three strings.

"Halloween is Coming" is a piece where beginners should really enjoy joining in the fun - open strings very near the bridge!















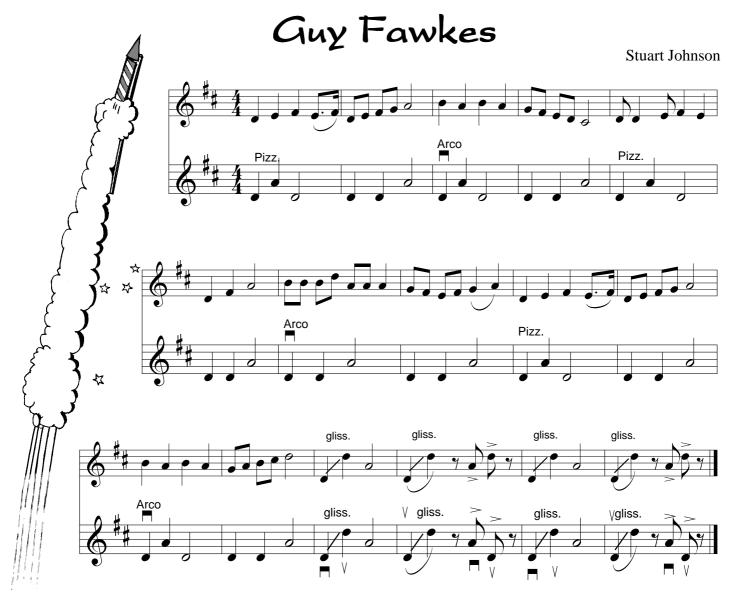
### There Was an Old Witch

These violin parts have more fun for beginners the first finger slides well for the cat; but for the rocket use the third. Also practise alternating plucking and bowing.

Verse 2 of the Witch song uses slightly different rhythms - easy if you know the words!







## Pussy Willow

(Savez-vous plantez les choux?)

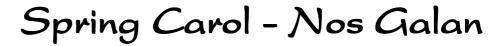
2 Verses

On the recording, tuned percussion play this well-known tune. Violinists should stretch their 3rd finger for the low C #.

The lower part uses fewer notes; but enough to keep everyone busy, especially since they jump over all four strings.



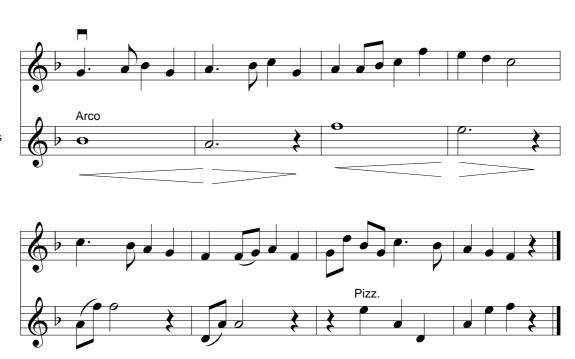






This carol is also sung at Christmas time. Do not forget the repeat of line one in each verse.

The second violin part uses only one finger, the first finger well back on the A and E strings, but this should still prove an enjoyable and stimulating piece for Y6 children.



### Now the Green Blade Riseth

4 Verses

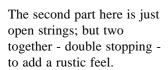
This is another piece where the second violin part uses only the first finger.

If children know about spiccato bowing, this is a good time to put it into practice - but gently.

















### All in an Easter Garden

Those young violinists who are taught the half-way harmonics at the beginner stage will be able to demonstrate their skill very effectively in these two pieces - harmonics are indicated by the 4 sign.

Left hand pizzicato is fun and also good fourth finger training - and works well in "Mix a Pancake".

In the Easter piece, note that the second violin part comes in *after* the tune, with steady crotchets and minims against the quavers of the melody.







In the melody, the A # is fingered like a B b - both for violins and recorders. The second violin part has easy open-string double stops which should be *stroked* gently.

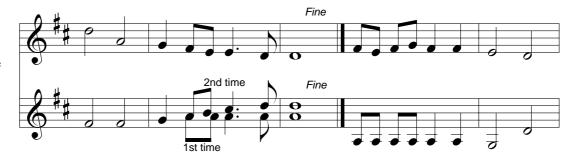




Handel wrote this stirring melody nearly 250 years ago for his oratorio *Judas Macabaeus*; but it also makes a splendid hymn tune.

The second part is made easier in that its rhythm exactly matches that of the tune itself.

When starting verses two and three, remember to start right back from the beginning.





## Jesus Christ is Risen Today

C major for violinists needs special care, with the second finger well back on the D and A strings.

The second part of this Easter Hymn, though, uses only one finger, the third finger, and again special care is needed to place it exactly in tune with the open string an octave below.







## When J Survey the Wondrous Cross

This melody is very difficult to play in tune; but is easier for clarinetists, who should write out the music one note higher.

The violin part, as in the piece above, uses only the 3rd finger - a suitable duet for an Easter assembly perhaps.





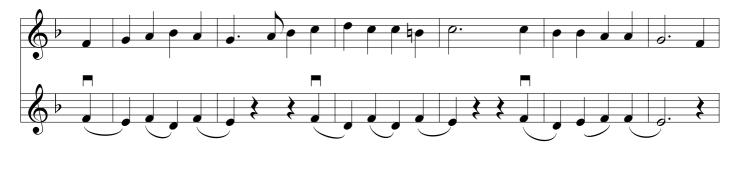
## We Have a King Who Rides a Donkey

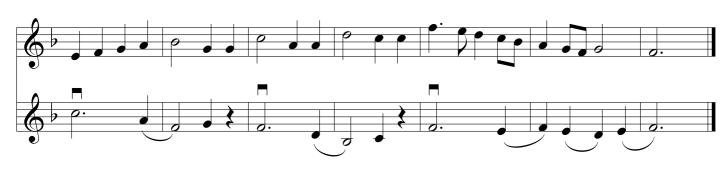


In the piece above, despite the key signature, there are no first finger B b notes. The second violin part is mainly open strings and 2nd finger - well back.

The Festival Carol is more difficult, and the second part is not for beginners either. Notice how the bow has to be 'recovered' to start each phrase with a down bow.





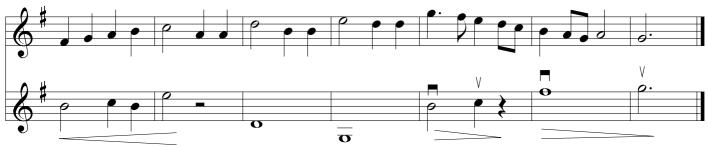


#### How Great the Harvest is.

In this melody, violinists need to concentrate on the F # / C \$\( \) finger patterns; but the second part, which only uses the 1st and 2nd fingers, has the fingers always close together, on the D, A and E strings.







# The Day Thou

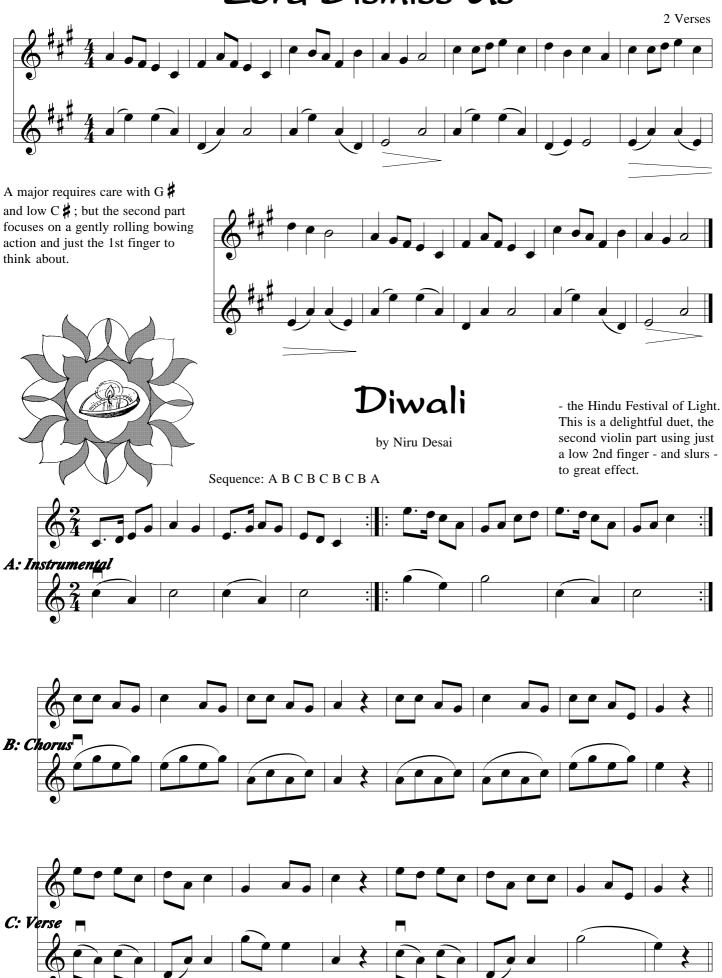
Cieves

As in the piece above, the second violin part uses only the 1st and 2nd fingers; but here it is important to distinguish between the F # and C # finger patterns.









#### Hanukah

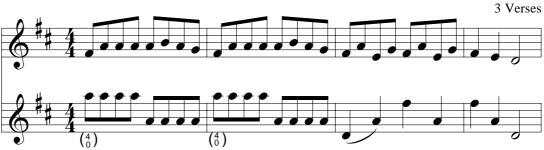
1 Verse - twice

- the Jewish Festival of Light.

concerns in playing this happy melody - 1st and 2nd fingers close together; but the second part is more concerned with shaping its interjections, which all use the same 1st



Lots of fun to celebrate the Passover! The harmonics are optional; but well worth the effort.





## The National Anthem

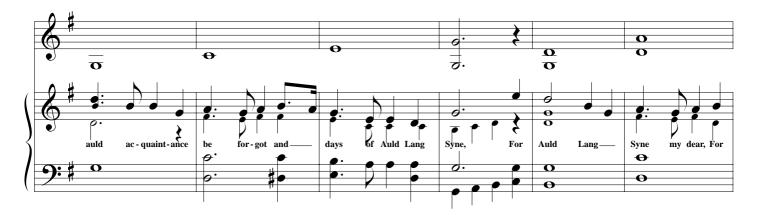
Beginners can easily join in here! The second part only uses the first finger, and the rhythm matches that of the melody throughout.





Easy double stops, and the long sustained semibreves, add a flavour of the bagpipes to this pentatonic Scottish melody.







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