

# Zerweck System

## *of fundamental violin study*

### Introductions for Teachers and Mature students:

Zerweck System – An Overview

How Teachers Can Adapt Other Pieces to This System.

### Preliminary:

Advice for parents of young violin scholars

10 Commandments of great practicing

~~Youtube and Self-teaching?~~

~~Standing Posture, Sitting Posture, Taking a bow.~~

Movement Exercises

~~Balancing the Violin: Resting and Playing~~

~~Balancing the Bow: Resting and Playing~~

~~Flashcards for Accurate Note-Reading~~

### Unit 1: Fox Hand

1) **Boil Dem Cabbage, Turn them Hoecakes, Roast that Possum, Down, Up.**

*First Song on One String.*

*Preparation for Duets: Cueing and Breathing*

2) **Hickory, Dickory, Dock.** *4th finger Pizzicato Etude. What's an Etude?*

Bowing Preparation for Mary had a Little Lamb.

Fox Hand. *Why do we want to gain a systematic understanding of the fingerboard?*

3) **Mary Had a Little Lamb**. *Detache and Slur. String Crossings (Bird Flap).*

4) **Dies Irae**. *Practice Technique: Short-Long, Long-Short. Chunking Practice.*

5) **Jingle Bells**. *Son File, Staccato*

6) **Oh When the Saints Go Marching In**. *Bow Distribution. Lifting, Lifting at the Frog.*

7) **Daisy Bell, a Bicycle Built for Two**. *Legato, String Crossings.*

8) **Amazing Grace**. *Blocking the Left hand. Checking Intonation with Double stops.*

9) **Morse Code**. *Tapping Exercises as Vibrato Prep.*

10) **Dreidel Song**. *Syncopated Rhythms, Harmonics as Shifting prep.*

11) **Joy to the World**. *Dynamics, Using Bow Distribution for Dynamics. Also, weight, contact point.*

12) **Easy Riffs**. *Talk about Interpretation. Accents. Invent Riffs. Improvise.*

13) **Taps**. *Harmonics and Finger "Pressure" exercises.*

14) **Good Morning to All**. *Fermata, Slurs, A look at what's to come (C natural!)*

15) **Canons: Row, Row, Row Your Boat, Three Blind Mice, Frere Jacques**  
*Some opportunities for Rhythm comprehension and bowing variations.*

## **Unit 2: Tea Hand**

17) **Tea Hand**

- 18) **Snake Charmer.** *Portato and Detache Porte*
- 19) **Hot Cross Buns.** *Shifting Prep and Double stop challenge. D.C. al Fine.*
- 20) **Mo Li Hua.** *Duet uses C Major arpeggio with 4 notes per bow.*
- 21) **Pop Goes the Weasel.** *Left Hand Blocking, Shifting to 3rd position.*
- 22) **Scarborough Fair.** *Bow distribution, perfect 5ths across strings.*
- 23) **Sakura Sakura.** *Intonation in Octaves. 3rd position.*
- 24) **Turkey in the Straw.** *String crossings, mixture of T+F. Whole Bow drone.*
- 25) **My Country, 'Tis of Thee.** *Bowing Distribution and R.H. Coordination.*
- 26) **America the Beautiful.** *Legato, string crossings. 3rd position and Guide Finger shifts.*
- 27) **Hail to the Chief.** *Dotted rhythms, portato, accents, lifts.*
- 28) **La Cucaracha.** *String Crossings, 3/4 and 5/4 time signatures.*
- 29) **Yankee Doodle.** *Staccato and Spiccato*

## **Unit 3: Rabbit Hand**

- 30) **Rabbit Hand**
- 31) **Cielito Lindo.** *Detache Lance, Frog Control*
- 32) **Korobeiniki.** *Spiccato, mixed slur patterns.*
- 33) **Star Spangled Banner.** *Portato, Porte, Accented Detache, Legato.*

## Unit 4: Claw Hand

34) Claw Hand

35) **Georgie Porgie.** *P4 relationships, transposition (into any position).*

36) **Greensleeves.** *Some Chromatic motion with 1st Finger.*

## Unit 5: Crab Hand

36) Crab Hand

37) **Hava Nagila.** *Triplets, Syncopation.*

38) **Misirlou.** *Syncopation, Bowing Coordination (seamless changes), Tremolo*

39) **Jarabe Tapatio.** *Crab Hand in Transposition, Interval/Intonation practice.*

40) **Take Me Out to the Ball Game.** *String Changes, skipping over a string. Large, Circular retakes.*

## Unit 6: Closed Claw, Chromatic Scales, and Review

41) Closed Claw Hand

42) **Burglar Music.** *Extensions.*

Graduation Piece: Rieding - Violin Concerto

## Transpositions of beginning material:

Transpositions of Joy to the World, Daisy Bell, Amazing Grace, Dreidel.

Transpositions include multiple settings of Fox, Tea, Claw, Rabbit.

## **Fundamental, Systematic Technique Work:**

Kung Fu Hand Scales

Major Scales in One Octave

Minor Scales in One Octave

Chromatic Discovery

~~Seagulls, shifting exercise~~

Scales that remain in One Position at a Time

(All modes in 1st Position)

Tone Building: Son File

## **Advanced Development:**

~~Unison Discovery~~

~~Shifting Discovery~~

Shifting for 3-Octave Scales

3-Octave Major and Minor Scales

3-Octave Major and Minor Arpeggios

Kreutzer's 42 Etudes: #2 and #5

Schradieck Book 1, #1, #2