

# **Beginner Violin Program ? From First Bow to Full Songs**

Combining Classical Technique with Real-World Musicianship

## **Program Description**

At Anthem Music Studios, our violin program is designed to build confident, expressive players?whether they?re learning for orchestra, solo performance, or modern music. We use traditional violin methods to develop strong technique, proper form, and note-reading skills, but we also help students understand how music works so they can play by ear, improvise, and create.

Students start with the fundamentals: posture, bow control, and pitch accuracy. From there, we blend in real music?folk melodies, orchestral pieces, or student-selected songs?to keep the experience engaging and goal-oriented. Whether the student is classically focused or interested in learning how to play along with other musicians, our approach teaches them to hear, read, and feel what they?re playing.

## **Program Details ? What to Expect in a Typical Violin Lesson**

While every student learns differently, we structure our lessons around building the following concepts:

### **Technique and Posture**

- ? Proper stance, bow hold, and left-hand positioning
- ? Finger placement using tapes as visual guides early on
- ? Bowing exercises to build control and tone

### **Reading Music and Ear Training**

- ? Learn how to read notes on the staff for violin (treble clef)
- ? Identify and play rhythms accurately
- ? Train the ear through interval matching and call-and-response playing

### **Student-Selected or Assigned Pieces**

- ? Students work on age- or level-appropriate songs

- ? Selections may include folk melodies, beginner classical works, or simplified pop themes
- ? Emphasis on phrasing, expression, and consistency

### **By 6?12 Months, Most Students Will Be Able To:**

- ? Hold the violin and bow correctly with good posture and control
- ? Read and play notes in first position (A, D, G, and E strings)
- ? Understand and play basic rhythms (whole, half, quarter, and eighth notes)
- ? Perform simple melodies like "Ode to Joy," "Twinkle Twinkle," or early Suzuki pieces
- ? Play short pieces using correct fingerings and bowings
- ? Begin playing scales (D major, A major) with proper intonation
- ? Use a metronome and maintain a consistent tempo
- ? Play in small ensemble or duet settings with another instrument
- ? Stretch Goal: Begin simple improvisation using scale-based ideas

### **Months 1?3: Setup and First Notes**

- ? Learn instrument parts, tuning basics (with help), and setup
- ? Proper violin/bow hold and basic body posture
- ? Plucking open strings (pizzicato) and bowing on open strings
- ? Begin note reading (open strings and 1st finger on A and D strings)
- ? Play simple one-line melodies (Hot Cross Buns, Twinkle)
- ? Intro to rhythms: quarter and half notes
- ? Learn how to listen and match pitch with instructor guidance

### **Months 4?6: Expanding Range and Reading**

- ? Begin using 2nd and 3rd fingers on A and D strings
- ? Start first position reading in treble clef across 2?3 strings
- ? Play short songs with note names and rhythms integrated
- ? Begin D and A major scales
- ? Introduce slurs, simple dynamics, and bowing patterns

? Begin working with metronome and counting out loud

? Learn rest position vs. play position habits

### **Months 7-9: Full Melodies and Ensemble Readiness**

? Full first-position fingerboard work (1st, 2nd, 3rd fingers across all strings)

? Begin string crossing and slurred bowing

? Play longer melodies in sections with repeats and simple endings

? Improve tone and consistency with bowing drills

? Begin duet playing with teacher or backing track

? Understand song form (A/B sections)

? Learn musical symbols: repeat signs, dynamic markings, basic articulation

### **Months 10-12: Musical Confidence**

? Perform full songs from memory or sheet music

? Develop expressiveness through bow control and phrasing

? Recognize and play simple chord-based harmony (double stops)

? Transpose short melodies to a new key

? Begin improvisation using D or A major scales

? Learn simple classical repertoire (Suzuki Bk 1, or student-provided music)

? Prepare for group recital or performance assessment