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## II. Pieces, Songs and Exercises

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Picture game for parents: What do these pictures tell you?

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**♠** = SYMBOL for additional Warm-Up Exercises

## Dear Parents, Dear Colleagues!

A hearty welcome to the third book! It is a joy to observe our students growing out of the beginning phase and moving in large steps towards the intermediate stage. To prepare for this transition, learning at the three different levels introduced in Book 2B is of utmost importance. We will now consider its application to the work in Books 3A and 3B.

#### **Current Piece**

The two most important lesson points in books 3A and 3B will be **phrasing** and **musical expression**. In order to understand how vivid phrasing and varying dynamics and tone colors can be realized with bow technique, the student must work intensively on **bow distribution**, **bow speed and bow weight**. These "tools" will give the student a command of musical expression. Take one example: In almost all pieces we will practice the conscious use of dynamic gradations like the *crescendo*, to begin a phrase vigorously, and the *diminuendo*, to end the phrase gently.

Varying the sounding point would also fall naturally into this area of violin technique, but for now this will only be considered in connection with playing harmonics and in third position. Since comprehensive work in this area might overwhelm students at this point, it will be delayed until later books.

### **Future Techniques**

The motto of book 3 is *preparation for the intermediate level*, which begins in book 4. Here we will find demanding concerto movements by Seitz, Vivaldi and Bach. In order to play these pieces well, a thorough preparation of the following techniques must be included during work in book 3A:

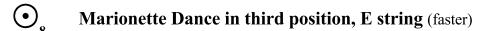
- ♦ vibrato
- preparation for the third position
- shifting between first and third positions
- ♦ chromatic exercises

During work in book 3B, the student will work additionally on the following:

- preparation for the second position
- shifting between first and second positions
- ♦ trill exercises
- string crossing exercises
- double stops and chords

#### **Review Program**

An essential part of practice continues to be the **daily review of previously learned pieces in performance tempo**. Students who can do this with good posture, a beautiful tone, vivid expression, correct intonation and clear rhythm have outstanding prerequisites for learning new techniques. Of course, the quality of the performance is decisive and every child has his own best possible performance level. It is during the review work when effort should be made to raise this level. Simply playing mechanically is detrimental, since mistakes can creep in and become reinforced.







• Marionette Dance in third position, A string





## • Marionette Dance in third position, D string





## • Marionette Dance in third position, G string





## Part A (Theme) – in a slow practice tempo



### How about a short duet?

