



# VIOLIN

## Trouble Spots — Got Rhythm? (Taken from my Practice Smart booklet)

by Ann Anderson

Last November the Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra performed Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the very difficult fourth movement. The speed of the eighth notes toward the end of the last movement posed major problems. Added to the speed were the octave leaps across three strings or two strings, if you could shift fast enough. Setting out to get the passages up to speed and to play them accurately was a formidable challenge.

No matter how advanced your students are, they can begin good practice habits in easier pieces and work up their drills to more advanced literature. Once a routine is established, it is second nature to continue their approach to learn more complicated works and use economical methods for quick results.







### Determine difficult passages:

- Make a list and practice these passages first
- Warm-up slowly working on tone and intonation
- Practice short passages quickly to establish a viable fingering
- Memorize

### Vary practice speeds and rest the hands and arms:

- Be careful to keep the left hand flexible to avoid cramping
- Play at a sensible dynamic level—never fortissimo.  
(Remember, you are just learning the patterns of notes at this time.)  
(Young students can develop carpal tunnel and shoulder problems. Once these injuries occur, healing takes a long-time. Avoid injuries!!)

### Rhythms:

1. Convert running eighth notes to dotted-eighth notes and sixteenth notes. \* Play  Reverse. Play .
2. Group notes in fours and stagger rhythms establishing one long note and three fast notes. Play first note long  Play second note long  Play third note long  Play fourth note long .
3. Level all notes at an equal speed but establish accents on different notes. Accent 1<sup>st</sup> note of four. Accent 2<sup>nd</sup> note of four. Accent 3<sup>rd</sup> note of four. Accent 4<sup>th</sup> note of four.
4. Glue the measures together by overlapping beats and/or measures. Continue this process with varying speeds. Remember to *rest the hands and arms*.

\*These and other excellent practice routines can be learned from *The Art of Practising the Violin*, Robert Gerle © 1983 - ISBN 0-85249-506-4. Printed in Great Britain by Galliard (Printers) Ltd., Great Yarmouth. Distributed in the U.S. by EC Shirmer, Boston. Available at Amazon, Shar and other retailers.

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