

Travelling Part One - right hand

1) Right arm movement: lightly touch string 6 with the back of your index finger and push your finger across the strings in a line that keeps the finger in the same position on each string. Then pull the finger back to string 6. Keep your finger in a 'playing shape' throughout.

2) For practising greater freedom of the right hand use the above method in a figure of 8 shape - from string 6 push down across the strings to a tasto position on string 1, pull up to string 6 staying in place, push down to a ponticello position on string 1, pull up to string 6 staying in place. Also practice the reverse.

3) Movement along a string. With these exercises leave a gap between positions at first and work towards continuous movement.

Now try continuous movement along the string to perfect the combination of arm movement with playing action.

4) Travel within a hand position - string crossing. We will always need to change strings in the 'reverse' way during our pieces. 'FORWARD' = string 3 'i' string 2 'm' - 'REVERSE' = string 3 'm' string 2 'i'

5) Three types of cross string movement: always maintain the correct finger shape by movement of the arm as practised above.

HOP - do this with each finger and thumb

JUMP - again with i m a and p

WALK - one finger per string gives us alternating FORWARD and REVERSE crossing.

It is very important to reverse the pairs as well. Also practice with 'm a', 'i a', 'p i', 'p m', 'p a'.

The combinations with 'p' are JUMP movements. The 2nd exercise here is more advanced using the pattern of notes that we used for the JUMP exercise.

This last combination increases the distance of the JUMP

Also practice with 'p m a' and 'p i a' using the same notes.

This an example of the necessity for right hand movement and freedom from Study no.1 by Villa Lobos. Try some different right hand patterns!