

Sequence Document
“Greensleeves” by Anonymous

Often attributed to Henry VIII, no one is certain where the tune came from. Focusing on reading in two voices, this piece provides perfect material for practicing dampening bass notes. Ask students to stop open-string bass notes from overlapping. You may also wish to introduce or reinforce “4 ways” practice.

4 Ways Practice

This approach to practice requires the student to isolate specific elements from a piece. After mastering each element the student will find improvement in the finished product.

The “4 Ways” approach asks the student to:

- Practice the upper melodic line by itself, including all fingering, phrasing and dynamic contrast
- Practice the lower (bass) line by itself (including all fingering, etc)
- Practice the right hand alone, playing the open strings, paying special attention to fingering and dynamic contrast
- Practice the left hand alone (silently, except for slurs) with attention to fingering, shifts, and perfect placement of fingertips behind the frets

After the student practices each element of a section (usually 1 or 2 measures long) ask the student to play the reassembled passage. “4 Ways” style of practice works well with almost any piece, but pieces with sustained multiple voices benefit greatly from this approach.

