



## 2018: SEMESTER 1 (Term 1)

# COZMO – Learning Group Notes #6

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**COZMO Learning Group:** Teaches or consolidates previously acquired basic reading and playing skills including transferring playing skills from another instrument e.g. piano, clarinet etc to mandolin or guitar, developing skills in playing ensemble-style, opportunities to utilise improvising or other solo playing skills within an ensemble setting. Through the Semester we will also be working towards presenting a short set at COZMO's Annual Winter Concert on Sunday 1 July 2018 (more on this in later Sessions).

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## SESSION 6 (25 March)

### Guitars and Bass (Col)

Present: Col, Gianni, Lyn, Bob; Lindsay assisting.

Absent: Diana (assisting) ill.

#### 1. Golden Sceptre (by R Schlegel)

We went straight into Golden Sceptre and played through to the end of section E pretty much without mishap. Some occasional lapses in timing, but generally it's continuing to improve.

We then moved on to sections J to N. The parts are pretty playable, so work on these at home, and on section F to section I (now that I've provided the guitars with the newly reconstructed F to I sections), and we'll be able to play from the beginning to the end of section M.

*NB: The CMSA (Classical Mandolin Society of America) had sent me a new copy of the guitar part, but their 'page 2' was in fact just a copy of the page 3 that we already have, so this assistance left us no further ahead!*

As I had commented in last week's Notes, Mandolins (on Gtr 1 and Gtr 2 parts) please spend time practising your semiquaver sections of J, K1, L and M so as to ensure your accuracy.

M1: Col, M2: Diana, Gtr: Gianni and Barbara, Mdl: Lyn (on Gtr), Bass: Bob. Lea: M1 or M2 when visiting group.

#### 2. La Paloma (by S. Salaverri)

We played La Paloma next and it is continuing to improve and sound tighter. I didn't get to spend time this week working with the "rhythm section" (Gtrs and Bass), but with one away this will keep until our next Session on Sunday 8 April (after the Easter break).

Mandolins: Continue to spend some practise time on bars 23, 39-40, 44, 48-52 and 56-59 to make sure of the timing.

We worked through to the end of the piece, and it's all getting a little less tentative.

Gtr 1: Col and Lindsay (on Mandolin), Gtr 2: Diana (on Mandolin) and Barbara (on Guitar), Gtr 3: Gianni, Gtr 4: Lyn, Bass: Bob. Lea: Gtr 1 (on mandolin) when visiting group.

## LG(C) Guitars & Bass HOME PRACTICE

1. Continue to work slowly through all of Golden Sceptre, now you can spend time on sections F to I! Please also now number all bars in these sections please. Also mark in fingerings where necessary, and write in your counting.

Did you all follow my two suggestions from the previous Notes?? ☺ This was to... **Circle any sections that give you problems and work on those separately** and **Use a metronome when practising!**

2. Continue to work on mastering La Paloma rhythms SLOWLY.
3. Continue to play through Carol of the Bells to keep it fresh – we'll get back to it soon.

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### Mandolins (Lea)

Present: Lea, Frank.

Absent: Michael.

#### 1. Musical intervals – Cheat Sheet

I'd given out a 'Cheat Sheet' at our session on 25 February of well-known songs where the first and second notes of the tune are specific intervals apart. Today I checked with Frank about the Exercise and clarified:



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- It's very handy to become familiar with how a pair of notes sounds, interval-wise, as this familiarity will allow you to easily find the right frets on your mandolin; and
- learning that certain popular songs start with certain intervals is a great way to develop this familiarity.
- Whilst it's not vital to learn the *names* of these intervals (e.g. minor second, perfect fourth, major sixth etc), it is very handy to become familiar with the *sound* of intervals so when humming a tune you can easily find the right frets on your mandolin.

Exercise: We played around with the exercise for the first 10 minutes or so of today's Session, picking a tune from the list, e.g. 'Amazing Grace' and selecting the low G (open G string) as our 1<sup>st</sup> note. We hummed that first note, then the second note, listened carefully to it, then worked our way up the fretboard one fret at a time until we found the correct note. Then we noticed how many frets (or semi-tones) apart those 2 notes are, and played them several times to become familiar with that interval. All good fun and a worthwhile exercise to do regularly, to attune your ear to the 'distance' between notes. 😊

### 2. A Riddle ('p4', Session #1 handout)

We practised playing this piece, ensuring that each note was played for its full duration: a crotchet for 1 full beat, a minim for 2 full beats and a semibreve for 4 full beats.

## LG(B) Mandolin HOME PRACTICE

1. Musical Intervals: Practise this again, doing the exercise as described above i.e. making your first note the low 'G' (open G string, and doing this for all 12 tunes listed on the 'Cheat Sheet'. Also try this for a few tunes you know: see if you can work out the interval between the first and second notes.
2. Long Journey Home and A Riddle: As for last week, practice playing these pieces, slowly and steadily, making sure you are playing each note ON the correct beat.
3. A Riddle: As for last week:  
Frank, first practise this piece playing the 'Pupil' line with all your notes (G, D, A, E) played on open strings. Then practise it playing all those notes on the 7<sup>th</sup> fret of the lower string (the one closer to your nose!). You may wish to try playing the upper notes of the first 4 bars of the 'Teacher' line as well.  
Michael, practise playing the tune at just the upper notes of the 'Teacher' line, then the lower notes.

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## OTHER STUFF

### 1. EASTER BREAK

Easter is coming up next week: 30 March – 2 April (Good Friday – Easter Monday), so we won't have a Session next Sunday 1 April. Our next Session will be after Easter, on Sunday 8 April.

### 2. MEMBERSHIP OF FAME 2018

FAME is the umbrella organisation for all mandolin ensembles in Australia and New Zealand: 'Federation of Australasian Mandolin Ensembles Inc'. Each year COZMO pays a \$10 fee to FAME on behalf of each current Learning Group and COZMO player; it is included in your COZMO/LG fee. This fee has now been paid for the FAME membership year to 31 March 2019 and you should start receiving FAME's quarterly mag Plucked Strings by email. If you don't receive the next issue in March or April, please let Lea or Col know. They'll advise COZMO's new FAME Rep Trevor Smallwood in COZMO, and he'll contact the Editor to sort this out.

### CONTACT DETAILS FOR COZMO'S Musical Director and Manager:

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