



2018: SEMESTER 1 (Term 2)

COZMO – Learning Group Notes #10

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).

SESSION 10 (13 May)

Please note: We didn't run a LG Session #9 on Sunday 6 May, as Col and Lea were in Sydney for the weekend.

Guitars and Bass (Col)

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

Absent: Barbara (Lindsay).

1. Golden Sceptre (by R Schlegel)

We played through all sections, then spent time working on 'playing' the *fermatae*, e.g. pausing at the end of bar 55, then having M1 and Bass come back in on the "& ah" in the anacrusis bar and everyone else coming in on beat 1 of bar 56. Note that all *fermatae* in this piece work in this way.

The tempo of the Intro and Sections A - E (bars 1-55) should be around 90-100 (the score, for those who have it, says 88). The tempo of Sections F - M is around 104, and the final section N around 120. Col will confirm these tempi in our next Session (Sunday 20 May).

This piece is sounding much more solid. The group stayed back in order to play this piece with COZMO players when they arrived – it's on track for performing at our Winter Concert.

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)

The group is playing this a little more tightly and everyone has clearly been working on their parts – well done. Each player, just practise your part as much as you can to ensure the rhythms are solid and correct notes. The comments from previous Notes are still useful:

Gtr 3: Spend time with a metronome to really nail the offbeat chord passages in sections A and C.

Gtr 4: Make sure you are really solid in section B, even though it says *mp*.

M1 and M2: As mentioned previously, please work on bars 23, 39-40, 44, 48-52, 56-59 to make sure of the timing – use a metronome when practising.

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

As given in the previous Notes:

1. Continue to work through all Sections of Golden Sceptre. Aim to increase tempo in the *allegro* sections.
2. Continue to work on mastering La Paloma rhythms. Take note of any points I've made above.
3. Continue to play through Carol of the Bells to keep it fresh – bring it next Sunday to work on.

Mandolins (Lea)

Present: Lea and Frank.

1. The Streets of Laredo

- Firstly, we looked at how the various parts fit together to start playing this piece:
 - Gtr 1 starts on beat 3 of Bar 1
 - Gtr 2 has 1 bar rest (i.e. doesn't play in bar 1), but starts on beat 3 of bar 2
 - Gtr 3 has 2 bars rest (i.e. doesn't play in bar 1 or 2), but starts on beat 3 of bar 3
 - Gtr 4 has 3 bars rest (i.e. doesn't play in bar 1, 2 or 3), but starts on beat 3 of bar 4
 - Bass also has 3 bars rest (i.e. doesn't play in bar 1, 2 or 3), but also starts on beat 3 of bar 4.



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A staggered start like this means that each player must pay close attention to the count-in, and continue to count the bars once the first person starts playing, so each person can hear when their entry bar is and start playing on that bar's beat 3. We're doing a 1-bar count-in: "1, 2, 3" before counting bar 1, so for Gtr 1, this means starting on "1, 2, 3 | 1, 2, 3", for Gtr 2, this means starting on "1, 2, 3 | 1, 2, 3 | 1, 2, 3", and so on.

- We then worked on getting the count-in and the start happening together, Frank playing the Gtr 3 part while I play Gtr 1. Careful counting proved essential for Gtr 3's correct entry on beat 3 of bar 3!
- We spend some time working on the rhythmic pattern that is found in bars 4, then 7-9, 15-17 and 66: "1 & 2 & 3 &". There's just one other stand-out pattern, in bars 10 and 18: "1 & 2 & 3 &". The rest of this part is quite straightforward. We focussed on two things: correct fingering, and 'anchoring' as much as needed on the 'E' (2nd fret D string), i.e. where an E is followed by F# and/or G, then back to E, try to keep your 1st finger down on the E. We'll introduce some dynamics in our next Session.
- Michael, which part will you work on – Gtr 2 or Gtr 4?

LG(B) Mandolin HOME PRACTICE

1. **The Streets of Laredo**: Keep practising the Gtr 1 part to maintain your skills with the various challenges it offers. However, do switch most of your attention to becoming really familiar with your Gtr 3 part (Frank) and Gtr 2 or 4 part (Michael). Write in all ar numbers and all counting, and circle the counts you play on – which is going to be just about all 1, 2 and 3 counts.
2. **Barney Google**: We didn't do any work on this piece in our Session, but picking up from Session 8's work on 29 April (see Notes #8), please work on just 3 bars (the hardest, for counting): **bars 12, 14 and 16**. Bar 12 is much simpler to play than it looks – you're just playing on beats 1 and 4 (but observing the rest on the '&' of '3'): "1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &". Bar 14 is "1 ee & ah 2 ee & ah 3 ee & ah 4 ee & ah". Bar 16 is: "1 ee & ah 2 ee & ah 3 ee & ah 4 ee & ah".
3. **A Riddle**: How are the double stops going? (see previous Notes #8).
4. **G scale**: Please keep practising a 2-octave G scale each day!

Michael, how's it going in Europe? Do let me know if you're able to follow the Notes and continue your mandolin practising!

OTHER STUFF

1. FAME FESTIVAL – 6-13 January 219 – REGISTRATION FORM NOW OUT!

The Registration Form for our next FAME Festival – FAME Festival Canberra 2019 – is now available!

You'll see that it was sent to you as an attachment to the email to which this Notes was also attached. It's also available on COZMO's website's home page. It's a 'form fillable' document, so you can complete it electronically and email it back to the Festival Registrar (Lea), or you can download it and fill it in by hand and post it. The Committee hopes that these Forms will start being sent in really soon, to start giving us some idea of the number of attendees we'll have – so please get yours in asap!!

The Festival welcomes Non-Resident Performers, Resident Performers and Resident Non-Performers (generally the spouses/partners of Performers who like to attend as a way of seeing what their other half is involved in and who also take the opportunity to have a holiday in another town). The Registration Form lists Festival Fees for these different categories of attendees – and also caters for Beginner, Competent and Advanced level players. **ALL COZMO players should think seriously about attending** (☺☺!) as this Festival is appropriate for all levels, the experience is amazing and invaluable, it only happens once every 18 months in Australia/ New Zealand, and it won't be held in Canberra again for another 13 years!!!

The Festival Fee is paid in two amounts, as for previous festivals – the 'Registration' Fee and the 'Balance of Festival' Fee. The deadlines for these two fees are 13 July and 14 September respectively. This allows the Committee to cover up-front costs associated with staging this event, such as buying air-fares for the Festival Conductor, paying accommodation and concert venue deposits, booking coaches etc.



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Festival Conductor: World-class mandolinist and performer Carlo Aonzo has been engaged as our conductor for the Festival – wow! Carlo will be running all rehearsals and conducting the FAME Festival Orchestra at our Finale Concert (on Saturday 12 January). We are really fortunate to have secured his services; not only is he a talented conductor as well as exceptional mandolinist and guitarist, he is also a very good teacher and will be available for individual lessons during the week (bookings will be essential). Carlo is a delight to work under – he has a great sense of humour, his English is excellent and so all his directions will be easy to understand and follow, and he really knows how to produce the best out of the orchestras he works with.

The Registration Form will shortly be circulated to all FAME members by *Plucked Strings* editor Marie Schulz (currently overseas at the BDZ Festival in Germany), and posted on the soon-to-go-live Festival website to attract attendees from the general public. The Festival ball is now rolling – the Festival Registrar has already received some Registration Forms and even a couple of Registration Fees!

The CMO and COZMO are the host orchestras for this event as it is being held in Canberra. This means that not only orchestra members' attendance at the festival but also their presence in residence would be highly desirable (! 😊), to help with the smooth running of evening activities and to offer cheerful attention to all our interstate and possibly overseas visitors.

What's in it for COZMO?? With all previous festivals, the hosting orchestra has always kept half of all Finale Concert ticket sales with the other half going to FAME coffers (an account belonging to ALL FAME members). This amount has typically been about \$3,000-\$4,000 to the hosting orchestra. For the 2017 event, staged in Adelaide, all ticket sales went straight to the FAME as that Festival was organised by the FAME Committee. The idea was that as Adelaide didn't yet have a mandolin orchestra, having a FAME Festival there could provide the impetus for the creation of one... and success! Adelaide now has the 'Mandolaide' Mandolin Orchestra, members of which we'll be welcoming at our Canberra Festival).

So for our 2019 event, it has been agreed that the two orchestras in Canberra, who are co-hosting, will share all ticket sales proceeds, which should result in about \$3,500 to each orchestra. Let's start thinking about how COZMO can most productively use that money, to benefit our members.

Your COZMO reps on the Festival Committee – Col, Trevor and Lea – are really hoping that you'll all get behind this festival by registering as residents and we're also asking you to help spruik the event by telling all the mandolin/mandola/mandocello players, guitarists and bassists you know that it's on and telling them how to get a Registration Form.

Thank you all – Col and Lea 😊