



2018: SEMESTER 1 (Term 2)

COZMO – Learning Group Notes #15

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.

SESSION 15 (24 June)

Guitars and Bass (Col)

Present: Col, Gianni, Barbara, Lyn, Bob.

Absent: Diana and Lindsay not able to attend at 4pm to assist.

1. Serenade Pizzicata (by Louis Ganne)

We played through this piece a few times this rehearsal, and everyone's playing showed that they're becoming more aware of the dynamics – but, as always, we can afford to exaggerate the differences more, so that the contrast is more obvious to the audience. Watch Col! Lea and Frank came in for a listen, and hopefully found the experience helpful. ☺

2. La Paloma (by S. Salaverri)

This piece is getting better all the time. We spent some time on getting the guitar offbeats more precise, and found that adding the thumb to play a muted note on the beat made it easier to synchronise with the rest of the rhythm section. Bass is stronger now, which is really helpful.

LG(C) Guitars & Bass HOME PRACTICE

1. Continue to work on Golden Sceptre, La Paloma and Serenade Pizzicata – mark any problem areas.
2. Continue to play through Carol of the Bells – we'll play this in our next Session together.
3. Keep using your metronome when you practise – it might feel like your worst enemy but it is actually your best friend, letting you know gently of any timing issues you may have!

For those in COZMO as well as this LG: If there are any parts in the COZMO repertoire that you would like to workshop in our LG Session, please let me know.

Mandolins (Lea)

Present: Lea and Frank.

Absent: Michael overseas until start of Term 4 (mid-October).

1. Frank's piece

We started our Session by having a look at a traditional Italian tune that Frank has been working on himself – very well known in the Italian community, with a simple repetitive melody. Before playing it together, I suggested doing something that can be very useful before playing any tune, to 'orient' the fingers as to where they will be predominantly reaching in a tune:

- look at the key signature and identify the key the piece is in:
 - this piece has 4 sharps: F#, C#, G# and D# so is in the key of E major
- then play that scale, noting which frets the fingers are using to play the notes in that scale:
 - so starting on the lowest E on the mandolin (D string, 2nd fret), we played a 2-octave E scale (E, F#, G#, A, B, C#, D#, E, F#, G#, A, B, C#, D#, E)
 - we found that the frets used are D string: 2nd, 4th, 6th; A string: open, 2nd, 4th, 6th; E string: open, 2nd, 4th, 5th (then 7th, 9th, 11th and 12th to finish the scale – but we won't need those notes)
 - we'll also need notes on the G string in this key: G# (1st fret), A (2nd fret), B (4th fret) C# (6th fret), and the D# on the D string (1st fret).

This simple process shows us that this whole piece will be played on those frets – pretty much the open, 2nd, 4th and 6th frets (except for accidentals) and allows us to anticipate much more confidently where our fingers will land and how we will need to stretch our fingers to place them accurately, and also which fingers we'll need to use, e.g. the little-used 4th finger will need to be ready next to the 3rd finger, to be frequently used on the 6th fret notes G# and D#.



2018: SEMESTER 1 (Term 2)

COZMO – Learning Group Notes #15

2. Counting and Rhythm – The Streets of Laredo

We concentrated on the rhythms in bars 7 to 10 of the Gtr 3 prt.

- We first practised clapping ON the circled counts (an essential first step, allowing the player to focus exclusively on the rhythm instead of having to also think about which notes to play, and what the left hand and right hand need to do).
- We then played these bars, cycling them quite a few times, focussing on playing ON the correct count and keeping all fingers ready to play:
 - we paid particular attention to playing ON the '&' of '2' (1 & 2 &...'), not anticipating this note and playing it too soon on the '2', and
 - we really concentrated on keeping the left-hand fingers as relaxed as possible and held close to each other (not allowed to curl back to the palm and not allowed to drop back behind the neck!!) ready to play their notes again: bars 7, 8 and 9 are just C, D, B and A in different orders:
| D C B | C D C | B A G |.

3. Following the music – Serenade Pizzicata

Col invited us to come in and listen to his group playing this piece – which sounded really lovely! It has quite a complex Mandolin 1 part, a Mandolin 2 part, a Bass part and Guitar part. We looked over the shoulder of players in each section to see what their contribution to the whole sound was:

- First we looked at the M1 part, being played by Col. In this piece, as in many pieces, the M1 part provides the melody (the tune) – noting that the piece is in 3/4 and is in D major (2 sharps: F# and C#), and that the M1 part contains many chromatic quaver runs (6 quavers per bar '1 & 2 & 3 &', e.g. bar 1: A, B, C#, D, E, F#) and chords (2-note double stops and 3-note raked chords).
- M2 players were absent so we didn't see what their music looked like, nor hear their harmonies.
- Then we looked at the Bass part (Bob) – essentially playing ON the 1, 2 and 3 beats throughout
 - this might be a good part for our group, if transcribed from the bass to treble clef.
- Finally we checked out the Guitar part (Lyn, Barbara and Gianni) – all chords, very impressive!

4. Scales – C and G

We then worked on one-octave C and G scales, really focussing on keeping all left-hand fingers as relaxed as possible and held close to each other (see 2. Streets of Laredo above).

We ran out of time to practise the double-stops in Oats and Beans, but will do so next Sunday.

LG(B) Mandolin HOME PRACTICE

1. Oats and Beans: We ran out of time to practise the double-stop chords in this tune, but will do so next Sunday (see Notes #14 for how to practise these).
2. Streets of Laredo: Practise bars 1-8 of the Gtr 3 prt.
3. Continue to work on the exercises with Golden Sceptre, Barney Google, G scale & C scale (see Notes #12).

OTHER STUFF

1. 8 JULY SESSION **NOT** IN CIVIC!

Please note change of venue: I've just been advised that our usual venue, at the Hellenic Club in Moore St Civic, is fully booked on Sunday 8 July. Luckily they were able to offer us an alternative session space ... The Aegean Room **at the Hellenic Club in Woden**. The address is Matilda St, off Callam St – parking on site. From the front entry walk straight through the foyer to the back stairs, and either take the stairs or the lift (next to the stairs) and you'll see the Aegean Room on your right at the top of the stairs.

2. END-OF-SEMESTER DINNER – SUNDAY 8 JULY

Due to the change of venue for our final session for Semester 1 to the Hellenic Club in Woden, we'll also be having our **end-of-semester dinner at the Hellenic Club in Woden**, starting at 7.30pm.

All partners most welcome! Please RSVP by email to Lea asap (one RSVP received so far, thank you ☺)



2018: SEMESTER 1 (Term 2)

COZMO – Learning Group Notes #15

There are three restaurants to choose from at the Woden club, so please **email ASAP if any one of these will NOT suit you, and also if you have a particular preference FOR one of them** (this will help Lea to know which one to book for the group) (<https://hellenicclub.com.au/woden/dining/>),:

The Bistro: (OPEN Sunday 6-9pm) “Renowned for its amazing steaks and fresh seafood, the Bistro offers members and guests great dining at fantastic prices. The menu includes an ‘all you can eat’ pasta, soup and salad bar, a comprehensive children’s menu, vegetarian options, daily roasts and meals for those with special dietary requirements.”

Fillos Taverna + Bar: (OPEN Sunday 6-9pm) “Fillos Souvlaki you know and love from The Hamlet in Braddon has made its way to the Hellenic Club Woden. Open now, Fillos Taverna + Bar is the Hellenic Club Woden’s brand new Greek dining experience. Bringing the best of Greek street food and modern dining straight to your plates for a dining experience you won’t find anywhere else in Canberra.”

Ginseng: (OPEN Sunday from 5.30pm) “This multi-award winning Chinese restaurant offers a vast selection of innovative and fresh Chinese cuisine. Ginseng offers a delectable dining experience, professional and efficient service in a fantastic, fresh surrounding.”

3. SPANISH CONCERT – SATURDAY 30 June

I had planned to include an announcement in the last COZMO Notes (#14), on behalf of Ian Bull (CMO) who had asked us to do so, about an upcoming concert that may interest you. However, I forgot to do so, so I sent out an email to all COZMO and Learning Group members about it. Unfortunately I’d indicated in that email that the concert will be on *Sunday* 30 June, when in fact it’s on *Saturday* 30 June. My apologies for this error and thank you Diana for emailing a correction to everyone. The correct announcement is as follows:

“Spanish Concert”: Saturday 30 June at 2.30pm at the Hughes Baptist Church in Groom St Hughes, featuring a solo Filipino guitarist with the CMO and the Rondanihan Filipino Rondalla. Tickets are \$20 and \$15 from [eventbrite.com.au](https://www.eventbrite.com.au). The concert will be 2 hours long.

For those unfamiliar with a ‘Rondalla’, it is a Philippines-style plucked stringed orchestra which includes the 7-course (14 strings) Bandurria, Laud, Octavina, Guitar and Double bass (bajo de uñas) instruments.

4. ST JOHN’S CHURCH REID – ANNUAL SPRING FAIR – 20 October

On Wednesday Lea had a text from the person who organises the entertainment at the annual fair at St John’s Church, Constitution Ave Reid, asking if COZMO is able to participate again in their event this year, on Saturday 20 October. Tie TBA, but it’s generally in the morning. Last year, we played inside the church for the first time, which was chilly but not quite as cold as playing outside at that time of year! We had a 10-11am time slot, and it went very well.

We’ve been involved in this fete for a number of years now, since 2013, and it’s a very relaxed, low-key and fun event for us, and afterwards we’re all invited to enjoy a Devonshire Tea, on the house. I’d like to reply ASAP to her, once I’ve heard back from all COZMO members to confirm their availability in the morning on that date. **Learning Group members are very welcome to join us this year – so please email Lea ASAP re your availability or advise Lea at our Session this coming Sunday – thank you!**

5. LEARNING GROUP PARTICIPATION IN SEMESTER 2

Please let Col and/or Lea know ASAP, for planning purposes, if you’d like to continue to participate in the COZMO Program in Semester 2. A short email would be perfect, thank you.

6. SEMESTER 1 FEEDBACK ENCOURAGED

Players who have participated in the Semester 1 Program are invited to provide feedback as to whether you feel you’ve progressed because of your involvement in the Program (or in spite of it!) and any other comment you may wish to make about any aspect of the Program that will assist your teachers (Col and Lea) to improve your learning experience. Just a short email would be most welcome, thank you.

Thank you all – Col and Lea ☺