



2024: SEMESTER 1 (Term 1)

## Notes #2

### COZMO Ensemble & COZYMO Learning Group

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#### COZMO REHEARSAL & COZYMO SESSION #2 (25 February)

**OUR START TIMES are:** LG Sessions: 3-4pm & Rehearsals 4.15-6.30pm.

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#### In today's COZYMO Session:

Present: Col, Lea, Alan and David.

Absent: Lyn and Jackie (in New Zealand) – both back for our 3 March Session.

Today we welcomed another new student to our Learning Group, David Liebowitz. Alan is also back to join the class on guitar, having visited on 4 February. Welcome to you both!

NB: 11 & 18 Feb: No Session on these dates as our students were interstate.

With two new students, one on guitar and one on mandolin, we asked them to give a quick intro of themselves to get an idea of where they were at and what they would like to focus on: Alan has been playing with informal groups for quite a while but wants to improve his low note reading and playing chords, and playing with a group. David has been studying clawhammer ukulele via Zoom lessons with an overseas teacher, plays tenor guitar and has experimented with tuning a ukulele in fifths – leading him to an interest in learning a mandolin family instrument – mandolin to start with, but also possibly mandola, and brushing up his reading.

We handed out 3 simple pieces to ease the new students in:

#### 1. Simple gifts (Trad Shaker tune)

**Gtr I:** Col (on Mdl)

**Gtr II:** Lea and David (on Mdlns)

**Gtr V:** Alan (lowest notes!)

**Five Quick Checks:** It's useful to do these checks before attempting to play any new piece.

1. Check (and understand) the key signature;
2. Check (and understand) the time signature;
3. Check for an indication of tempo (tempo words like 'allegro', 'andante' etc., or a descriptive title (e.g. "Lizzie's Slow Waltz");
4. Check the arrangement (any repeats, DS, DC, codas etc) and be ready to follow those instructions;
5. Check for any tricky notes/chords/phrases in any bars (spend a minute or two playing them to familiarise yourself with them so that when you reach them you'll have some idea already).

**Once these 5 quick checks are done, you'll be much more ready to start playing a new piece.**

For Simple Gifts:

Key signature: C major

Time signature: Common or 4/4. This means that there are 4 beats in a bar and that each beat is taken by a quarter note aka crotchet: | ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ |.

Tempo: Not stated but we took it very slowly: ♩ 60 (played usually at ♩ 96 or so).

Arrangement: Straight through, no repeats.

Tricky notes: This is where each player quickly scans their part, spots any potential difficulties and quickly sorts them out before starting to play. This was potentially all 'tricky' as we assumed some note-reading and instrument familiarity, even if just rudimentary, and went from there. This showed where we'll focus on in subsequent Sessions.

We spent time playing bars 0 - 16. Col gave a 2-bar count-in, with Gtr 1 (Col) coming in with 2 eighth notes aka quavers (♩) on the '4 &' of the 2<sup>nd</sup> bar count. This is bar '0', an anacrusis or pickup bar. The other parts – M2 and Gtr – came in on beat 1 of bar 1.

To practise at home: sight-reading, learning the tune, getting comfortable with counting each bar and playing the rhythm shown by the 'value' or length of each note. Over the next weeks, you'd find that note recognition will kick in with practice as will quickly recognising the length of each note and 'reading' the rhythm ☺.



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### 2. Jumping Jacks' Jubilee (WJ Eckhard)

This is in score format, rather than part format. It's a good idea to highlight the line in the score that you're playing, so your eye can follow as you move from 'system' to 'system' down the page. Playing from a score is very handy – it allows all players to see exactly where and what others are playing and how their own part fits in with the others.

**M1:** Col (on Mdl'n)

**M2:** David (on Mdl'n)

**Gtr:** Alan & Col

Key signature: C major

Time signature: Cut common (aka *alla breve* ('everything short') or 2/2). This means that there are 2 beats in a bar and that each beat is taken by a half note aka minim: | ♩ |. Whilst normally a 2/2 bar is counted

"1 2" or "1 & 2" (2 clear pulses), we're counting it in 4: "1 2 3 4" or "1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &".

Tempo: Not stated but we took it very slowly: ♩ 64 (played usually at ♩ 108 or so).

Arrangement: Straight through, no repeats.

Tricky notes: For M1, bars 15 and 16. For M2: bar 16. For Gtr: All the chords are standard – but the challenge is to quickly recognise them (in the voicing given) and to quickly move your fingers into position for each.

The rhythmic pattern in this piece was more difficult than in Simple Gifts, as not playing on rests is important. We emphasised that playing on the correct beat is always more important than playing the right note!

For our new students, we gave them a bit of a 'trial by fire' first Session. There are several 'skills' that need to happen simultaneously: quickly reading notes and quickly finding them on the instrument, counting, getting the rhythm, listening to other players and playing together, and chord recognition for guitars. Each of these takes practice, and doing them all at the same time will take a lot of practice – you shouldn't expect this of yourselves yet, and not for some time!

Our first Session was great and pointed to specific skills already underway.

### HOME PRACTICE – COZMO

#### Simple Gifts and Jumping Jacks' Jubilee:

Alan and David: Please go over these. Concentrate on note recognition, locating the notes and playing them cleanly on your instrument. We'll work on these slowly **at our next Session on Sunday 3 March**.

Lyn and Jackie: You won't have seen these pieces in a while, but Col has emailed them to you (and Bonita). Could you each practise the parts you've played previously.

A third piece was given out: Bonita, a tango. Please do the 5 quick checks before starting to work on playing it.

Lyn on M1, David on M2. Jackie and Alan on Gtr. Please number all bars in all 3 pieces.

Note: Being a tango, Bonita has a dotted crotchet rhythm. Dotted notes are half as long again as its regular note. So if a crotchet is being counted "1 &" (as in this piece, where we'll count each bar in 4 as we did for Jumping Jack), then a dotted crotchet is worth 1½ beats, i.e. "1 & 2" and the next note comes in on the "&" of 2.

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### In today's COZMO Rehearsal:

No Rehearsal held today.

### HOME PRACTICE – COZMO

Sonata VI: Please go over all pieces played in our 4 February Rehearsal. Our next Rehearsal will be on Sunday 17 March (no rehearsal on Sun 10 March as this is the Canberra Day long weekend). Col will bring the second Billi collection to the 17 March Rehearsal (6 new pieces) and we'll play through some of them.



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### OTHER STUFF

#### 1. COZMO ANNUAL FEE & COZYMO SEMESTER 1 FEE

COZMO membership fee for 2024 – still \$120. COZYMO student fee for Semester 1 2024 – still \$150.

- Payment can be made by EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer). If you prefer not to pay by EFT, payment in cash or by cheque (Payee: "COZMO Inc.") is accepted.

Please pay your COZMO Ensemble Fee or your COZYMO Student fee (whichever is applicable to you) within the period 1-24 March 2024 (i.e. not before 1 March), by:

- EFT: COZMO Bank Account and Reference Line details are below.
- Cash or cheque: Payment to Lea at Rehearsal in March.

##### COZMO bank account details:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank of Australia      Account Name: Capital of Australia Mandolinata Inc. (COZMO)  
Account BSB: **06 2913**      Account Number: **1057 9129**.

**Reference Line:** To assist our Treasurer, please include a Reference Line in your EFT as per the Example Reference Lines format below. Only 18 characters including spaces are permitted by the Commonwealth Bank, so please identify your payment by providing your first name initial, then the first 3 letters of your surname, then a space, then

- for COZMO members: the fee type you're paying and the year being paid for, and
- for COZYMO students: the Semester (S1 or S2) being paid for, the fee type you're paying and the year being paid for:

EXAMPLE Reference Lines: **JSmi COZMOfee 2024** (for COZMO members) = 18 characters total, including spaces  
**JSmi S1COZYMOfee24** (for COZYMO students) = 18 characters total, including spaces

The 1<sup>st</sup> example shows that John Smith, an ensemble player, has paid the COZMO membership fee for 2024.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> example shows that John Smith, a student, has paid the COZYMO fee for Semester 1, 2024.

#### 2. FAME FESTIVAL, BRISBANE 2024 (30 June – 7 July)

Well done us – we have 5 participating!

#### 3. ENSEMBLE ETIQUETTE – an oldie but a goodie

It is always good to think of how we can improve our rehearsals, so as to set an example for new members when they come in, and to allow us to use our time more efficiently. Werner Ruecker, the conductor for the Perth FAME Festival orchestra (Jan 2023), modelled several things that really did improve how the 60 members of that FAME orchestra were able to work together and respond much more quickly to his conducting, including:

- being on time to rehearsal – arriving early and tuning up so as to be ready to play at the start time,
- not talking while conductor is talking, and taking care to listen so as to not have him repeat himself,
- marking music straight way as instructed,
- not "noodling" any time there's a 'break' in playing, e.g. when the conductor is talking to the orchestra or to individuals in it, when bars for certain sections are being sorted out etc, and
- watching the conductor carefully at the start and end of pieces, easily do-able if you've learned your first bar and final bar by heart! This way you can watch the conductor (not study your music) for instructions to ring on or damp or cut off, then wait until he signals the orchestra to relax; only after this do you relax, then turn the page to the next piece.

For reminders there is a document on "Ensemble etiquette" on the website:

<https://cozmomando.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/ensemble-etiquette.doc>

#### 4. SESSION & REHEARSAL CALENDAR – Semester 1

This will be in the next *Notes*. Please note that the Canberra Day long weekend is on 9-11 March so we won't have a Session or Rehearsal on Sunday 10 March, and that our next Rehearsal is on 17 March.