

Preface

It's been my pleasure to perform professionally with Fiddlin' Phil on and off for the last ten years, so I was excited to hear that he was ready to publish his own Fiddlin' Phil Strings Method! Too often the expert performers we hear are either too busy or unavailable to teach and divulge their hard-won secrets. Here, Phil has laid out his performance secrets for all to enjoy.

His first secret is that it's all music—classical, country, folk, world, contemporary, rock, jazz—and it's all good. You'll find some of everything here, for the “complete” musical experience.

Phil's second secret is that music is played by real people, together. The Fiddlin' Phil Method is written so that students can play together as a group, not just for a few “ensemble” pieces, but for every tune in the book. And the backing CD is performed by REAL people playing REAL instruments too (no tacky electronic versions here!), so that even the single player gets the sound and feel of a live group performance, while ensembles can get some extra support.

Phil's third secret is that we're all important when it comes to music. Every instrument is just as important as any other—even the double bass can take the tune! Each individual Method book is carefully graded so that the development of the melodic and accompaniment parts for each instrument is matched. There are no “lame duck” parts or hidden technical traps for the unwary.

Phil's final secret is that, to learn to be a musician, you have to play real music. Even the simplest of Phil's compositions and arrangements SOUNDS like real music and, more importantly, FEELS like real music when you play it. With feedback like that, it's not long before you ARE a real musician.

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