

# Learn as you play through the world of *Stringtastic!*

***Stringtastic Book 1*** is an exciting collection of fun new compositions covering a wide range of styles. These pieces are progressively presented, taking the player on a journey from the D major scale through to Grade 1 (Early Elementary) level. No more than one technique is introduced at a time and space is given for consolidation.

These books have been designed for maximum flexibility:

- *Stringtastic Book 1* for violin, viola, cello and double bass is fully integrated to work together in any combination – ideal for use in individual lessons as well as group lessons and string orchestras.
- Many tunes have fun lyrics to sing, helping to develop a strong sense of pitch and rhythm. Learners can try writing their own lyrics, too!
- Dynamics are given throughout, but players are encouraged to add their own once a confident sound has been developed. Where there are lyrics, dynamics have consistently been placed below the lyric line.
- Fingering varies across the instrumental books but all is discretionary and flexible.
- While there are 57 pieces in total, eight of these are equal-level duets, both accompanied and unaccompanied; here players are encouraged to learn both parts.
- Instrumental cues are given throughout. Where instrumental lines differ from the violin part, the cello cue has been provided by default. For clarity, the use of the alto (viola) clef has been avoided.
- Some instrumental parts and accompaniments are deliberately written in different keys (pieces 8, 43 and 44) to avoid accidentals in the instrumental parts that could detract from the learning at that stage.
- Every tune has a fun backing track to play along to, as well as a piano-only backing track for practice:



Scan the QR code or go to [fabermusic.com/audio](https://fabermusic.com/audio) to download the tracks.



# 29. Dark forest

Darkly ♩ = 76

*p*

*con Ped.*

All <sup>3</sup> *p*

<sup>7</sup>

<sup>11</sup>

<sup>15</sup>

The musical score is for a piece titled 'Dark forest'. It is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The tempo is marked 'Darkly' with a quarter note equal to 76 beats per minute. The score is divided into systems. The first system shows the beginning of the piece with a piano (p) dynamic and a 'con Ped.' (with pedal) instruction. The second system starts at measure 3 and includes a triplets (3) marking. The third system starts at measure 7. The fourth system starts at measure 11. The fifth system starts at measure 15 and ends with a double bar line. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the bass and a more active melody in the treble. The vocal part (marked 'All') consists of a single melodic line with some rests.

# An overview of *Stringtastic Book 1*

**Stringtastic Book 1** is split it into four distinct stages:

- **Stage 1: Tunes 1–15**

This section follows on from *Stringtastic Beginners* by introducing notes on the G, C and E strings, plus further notes on the A string for the double bass. This section uses the same rhythms introduced in *Stringtastic Beginners* to allow students to focus on learning to play on the new strings.

- **Stage 2: Tunes 16–28**

These tunes introduce new musical concepts based on the D major finger pattern covered in *Stringtastic Beginners*. Including dynamics, accents, slurs and new time signatures and rhythmic patterns.

- **Stage 3: Tunes 29–51**

For the violin and viola, this section introduces low second fingers on all strings as well as changing between low and high second fingers. For the cello, this section introduces second fingers on all strings and changing between second and third fingers. For the double bass, there is more second finger practice and tunes for both the second and fourth fingers.

- **Stage 4: Tunes 52–57**

This section brings everything together in pieces at Grade 1 (Early Elementary) standard.

## **Flexibility:**

- Stage 1 can be started while students consolidate the first 20 D major duet tunes in *Stringtastic Beginners*.
- The different strings introduced at Stage 1 can be tackled in any order. There's no reason why the student can't tackle the E string tunes before the G string tunes – it's up to you!
- If you prefer to build upon the D major finger pattern before tackling the other strings, you can jump straight to Stage 2.
- You can choose to teach Stages 1 and 2 simultaneously: introduce the new strings in Stage 1, while building upon a D major finger pattern in Stage 2.
- Stage 3, like Stage 1, can be taught in any string order.

## **Ensembles:**

- There are two duets without piano accompaniment in this book as well as several duets with piano accompaniment.
- The duets work for any combination of instruments, including string orchestras.
- As cellos and violas learn to play tunes on the C string, violins and double basses have their own workout. These sets of parts can be combined to create additional duets or string orchestra pieces. The same applies when violins and double basses learn to play on the E string, and at the point at which all instruments are dealing with flats and naturals (Stage 3).