

Loops

This is an extremely powerful practice method in which you play groups of notes forwards and backwards, making 'loops' of notes that are played round and round in a circle. There can be three notes in a loop or as many as seven or more. For example, playing in groups of five notes:

- Play the first five notes in their correct order and then play backwards, in reverse order, to the beginning again. In other words play notes 1–2–3–4–5, followed by 4–3–2.
- Repeat the loop continuously, learning how to play it in tune, with an even tone, and even rhythm.
- Then do the same beginning on the second note of the passage, and so on to the end.

This can be hard work, but just a few minutes spent playing loops usually brings instantaneous and dramatic improvement.

1

Example

Praeludium and Allegro, Pugnani-Kreisler

Musical notation for the first example, showing a sequence of notes with fingerings (1, 2, 3) and dynamics (f, rit.).

- Three notes forward, one note back:

Musical notation for the second example, showing a loop of three notes forward and one back. Includes the instruction "Repeat many times" and "simile".

- Four notes forward, two notes back:

Musical notation for the third example, showing a loop of four notes forward and two back. Includes the instruction "simile".

- Five notes forward, three notes back:

Musical notation for the fourth example, showing a loop of five notes forward and three back. Includes the instruction "simile".

- Practise also in rhythms:

Musical notation for the fifth example, showing a loop of five notes forward and three back in a rhythmic pattern.

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Example

- Miss out any groups of notes that do not need loop practice.
- Three notes forward, one note back:

- Four notes forward, two notes back:

- Five notes forward, three notes back: