

# Learning Pathway: Expression

## Overview

Do you dream of playing confidently with melodies full of expression? Learn to shape phrases, control dynamics and bring lyrical sound to your playing as you develop the art of expression. You can dip into any module in any order or chose to complete one module before going to the next. Enjoy the learning journey and be kind to yourself. To enjoy this pathway it is recommended that you feel comfortable with basic harp skills.

## Mastering Tucking

Mastering the art of tucking will help you create smooth, flowing phrases.

TECHNIQUE BANK: SHORT COURSE:

- Mastering Tucking

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TECHNIQUE BANK: INDIVIDUAL EXERCISE:

- 1-5-8-9-10 Exercise 1

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APPLY YOUR LEARNING: Learn a tune that uses tucking such as

- Schindler's List (all versions use right hand tucking)
- Someone You Love (intermediate or Advanced versions use 1-5-8-9-10 patterns)

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STRETCH YOUR LEARNING:

Record yourself playing a tune and reflect on your expressiveness.

- What can you do to improve?
- Record yourself again. Did you improve?

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## Dynamics

Considering how you might use dynamics (loud or soft playing) to colour your music will help you develop expressiveness.

TECHNIQUE BANK: INDIVIDUAL EXERCISE:

- Dynamics on Individual Fingers

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TECHNIQUE BANK: INDIVIDUAL EXERCISE:

- Individual Fingers on Arpeggios - Use different dynamics while doing this exercise

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APPLY YOUR LEARNING: Learn some more simple tunes and focus on your dynamic variation and control, such as

- Christ Child Lullaby, Baloo Baleerie or Morning Mood

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STRETCH YOUR LEARNING:

Record yourself playing a tune and reflect on your dynamic control and expressiveness.

- What can you do to improve?
- Record yourself again. Did you improve?

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## Mastering Rolled Chords

Rolled chords feel great to play and also can bring so much texture to your playing.

TECHNIQUE BANK: SHORT COURSE:

- Mastering Rolled Chords

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APPLY YOUR LEARNING: Learn a tune that uses rolled chords such as:

- Morning Mood (advanced arrangement)

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STRETCH YOUR LEARNING:

Record yourself playing a tune and reflect on your expressiveness.

- What can you do to improve?
- Record yourself again. Did you improve?

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## Mastering Rhythm

Let's not forget the importance of holding a strong rhythm through a piece, expression grows from excellent foundations.

TECHNIQUE BANK: SHORT COURSE:

- Master The Metronome

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APPLY YOUR LEARNING: Learn a more complex rhythmic tune and focus on playing with expression through more challenging rhythms

- Brown Eyed Girl, The Witches Jig

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STRETCH YOUR LEARNING:

Record yourself playing a tune and reflect on your expressiveness.

- What can you do to improve?
- Record yourself again. Did you improve?

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## Develop Melodic Playing

Allowing a melody to sing is one of the most expressive approaches to music.

WORKSHOP: Gillian Fleetwood: Melody at the Heart of the Matter

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TECHNIQUE BANK: SHORT COURSE:

- Develop Melodic Playing

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APPLY YOUR LEARNING:

Learn a tune with a more free melody and focus on keeping the melody at the heart of your playing. Try singing the tune you are playing. Think about the phrasing in your voice and try to copy this on the harp.

- Bless Us All, Pure Imagination, Amazing Grace

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STRETCH YOUR LEARNING:

Record yourself playing a tune and reflect on your expressiveness.

- What can you do to improve?
- Record yourself again. Did you improve?

☐

# Learning Pathway: Expression

## Telling a Story and Conveying Emotion

Music has the ability to paint a picture in the minds of listeners.

CONCERT SERIES: Ailie Robertson in Concert

- In this concert Ailie shares music that has held special meaning for her and this comes across in her playing. Write notes on how emotion is conveyed through the sharing of stories and her personal connection with the tunes she shares.

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CONCERT SERIES: Amy Turk in Concert

- Amy shares music that has the ability to help us process emotions and big events in our lives. Consider how this comes through in her playing as she plays. What emotions do you experience as she plays?

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APPLY YOUR LEARNING

- Write a story for a tune you are learning. How would you introduce it in a concert? Are there any key moments in the music that stir up a particular image or emotion?

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STRETCH YOUR LEARNING

Record yourself playing a tune and reflect on your expressiveness and the story it conveys

- What can you do to improve?
- Record yourself again. Did you improve?
- Play it for a friend and ask them what story/connection they felt.

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## Further Inspiration and Tasks

CONCERT SERIES: Eleanor Turner in Concert:

- Take note of the different layers of expression and how they are achieved
- How can you apply this to your playing?

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CONCERT SERIES: Members Concert 2024

- Take note of the different layers of expression and how they are achieved
- How can you apply this to your playing?

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APPLY YOUR LEARNING

- What did you notice in these concerts that you can apply to your own playing?

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STRETCH YOUR LEARNING

Record yourself playing a tune and reflect on your expressiveness.

- What can you do to improve?
- Record yourself again. Did you improve?

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Consider signing up for a Member's concert or playing for your pod.