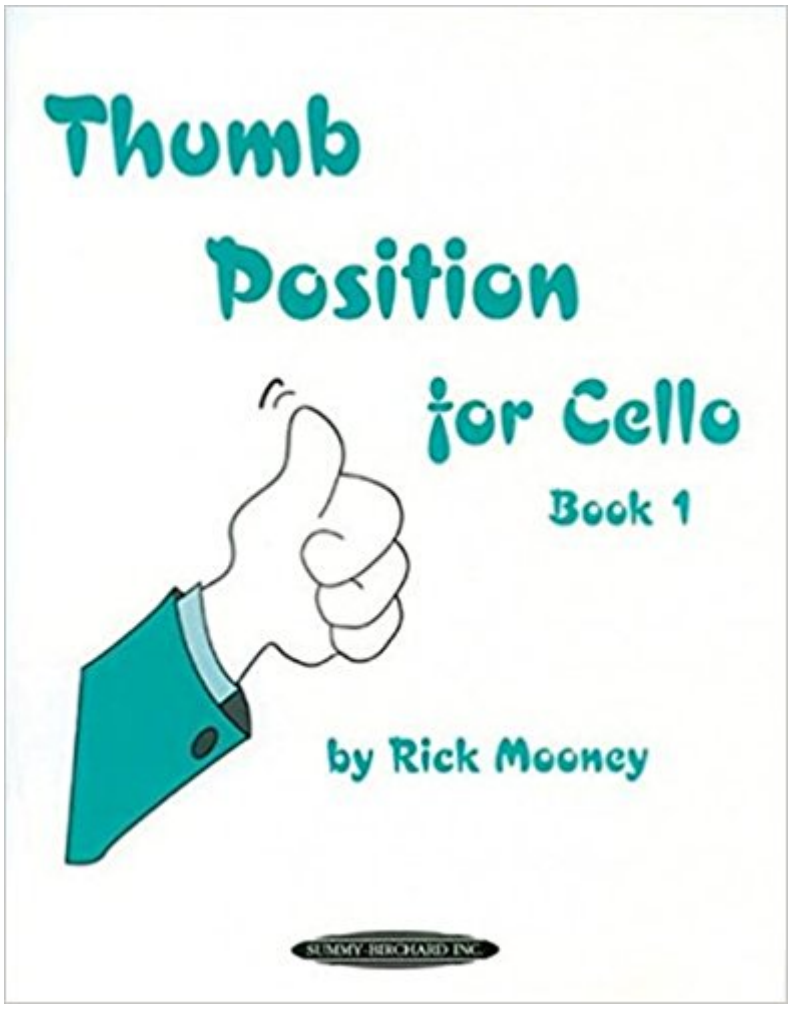
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Thumb Position For Cello, Bk 1



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Synopsis

This book from Rick Mooney features easy classical music as well as folk songs, fiddle tunes and Mooney originals composed to address specific technical points. A second cello part throughout promotes a student's ability to hear and play accurately.

Book Information

Sheet music: 72 pages

Publisher: Alfred Music (May 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0874877636

ISBN-13: 978-0874877632

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 8.2 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 25 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #49,984 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Songbooks > Strings > Cellos #19 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Instruments > Strings > Cellos #407 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance > Instruction & Study

Customer Reviews

I am an adult cellist who learned first as a teenager, and I have always dreaded and avoided thumb position. Who wouldn't?! So I was really surprised and amazed that Rick Mooney's book makes thumb position (SO FAR) appealing and easy.Mooney has a mixture of warm-ups, familiar tunes, and fun lively gigs. My cello sounds more like a fiddle than it ever did before! I can't believe I actually look forward to practicing his thumb position pieces every night, and I am learning them quite quickly. He also has a reassuringly methodical approach, having us learn different fingering patterns one at a time. (1st section devoted to half step between 2nd and 3rd fingers, the easiest. 2nd section devoted to half step between 1st and 2nd, etc.) And by giving us familiar pieces (folk songs and Suzuki), we can play in this unfamiliar position, and instantly know if we're playing the right notes. This also helps for those just learning treble clef. (This book is all in treble clef because the notes are so high.)Do know that this book is easy in large part because Money doesn't have us press down our thumb yet, it is just resting lightly on the harmonic. But this is great, because it builds confidence and willingness about thumb position.Pressing the thumb down comes with Book 2, Thumbs of Steel. Now THAT, I am dreading, although I just ordered it. As my cello teacher says,

"if it doesn’t hurt, you’re not doing it right." If Mooney can make that book enjoyable, then I will truly be amazed.

I teach cello so my comments may be more helpful for other cello teachers who are looking for a book that provides material with which to apply instruction on thumb position technique. It is arranged by hand position (ie. whole step, whole step, half step between fingers is the first section, whole, half, whole is the second etc). Each hand position has a number of short tunes which are reasonably engaging for kids and progress very smoothly in difficulty so that once foundational instruction on left hand positioning has been given by the teacher, the tunes are practically learnable by the students on their own. I personally like to start the student with exercises before introducing this book that help them maintain a correct hand shape but once that is done, this book provides great opportunity to practice skills.For cello enthusiasts trying to learn cello on your own, I don’t really recommend that anybody use this book without a teacher because the correct hand shape required for thumb position is not physically intuitive and most students without instruction will default to hand shapes that are not correct. The book does not provide any information on this. Without a doubt, Mooney, who is a suzuki method instructor put this together with the intent for it to be used with an instructor.

This is an exercise book, so don’t expect much musical inspiration. The melodies are engaging enough to make you want to play them, some are fun, but all are exercises that help you concentrate on intonation and hand postition. It’s a lot easier to learn this way than playing regular compositions.The first four sections break down the octave thumb position into four categories depending on note intervals and gives a few exercises for each. The last and longest section has melodies that mix up the categories.The tunes are folk melodies, fiddle tunes, and some Bach chorales.

My son was delighted to get this as a gift!

I love this book! It’s concise, direct and practical. It gives my students security in the upper ranges of the cello. Filled mostly with short familiar pieces. It makes it easy to get started.A couple of suggestions, I wish there were more scales and form examples. What about offering a DVD with the volumes?That said, an excellent intro to thumb position!All the Best, John Stuart - Alamocitycello@youtube.com

If you are struggling with trumb position, this book is for you. It did help me a lot.

Received as described!

This was exactly what I was looking for: it’s a typical Rick Mooney book that explains the thumb position for cello right from the beginning, and very thouroughly

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