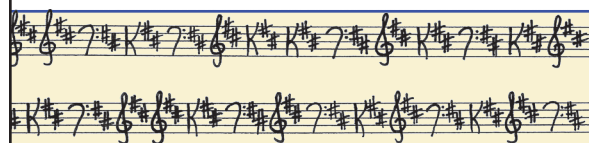


## B Minor

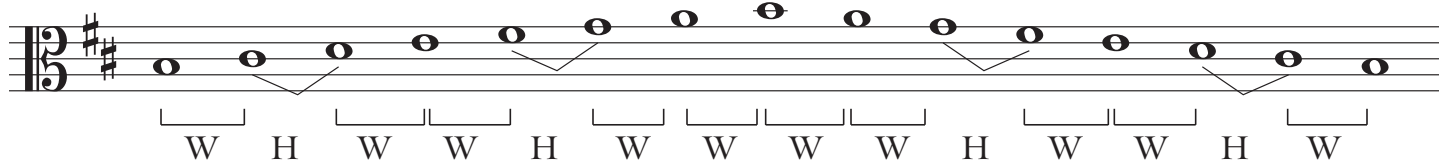


**Key Signature**  
**B Minor**

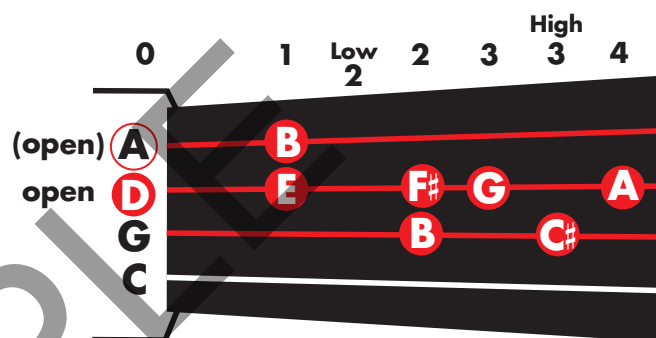


Two sharps in the key signature. B minor has the same key signature as D major.

Here is the **B Minor Scale**. The B minor scale starts and ends on B.

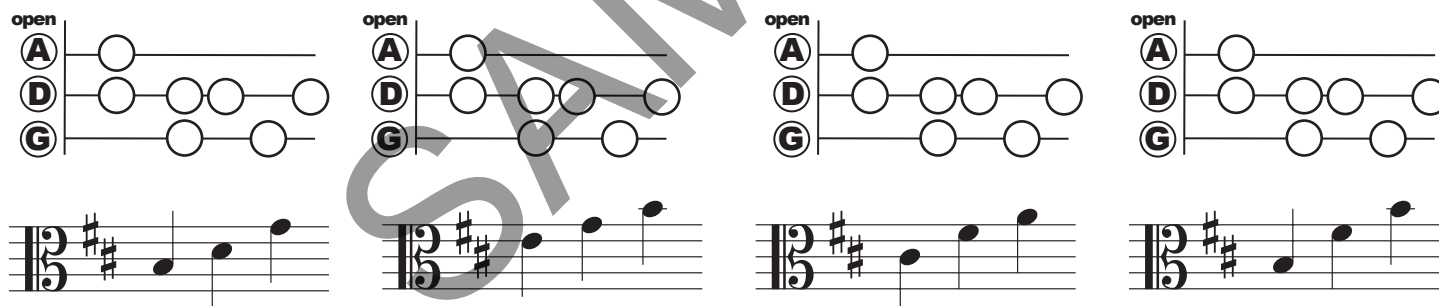


The first note of the B minor scale begins on your 2nd finger B on the G string and ascends to the 1st finger B on the A string. This scale uses a stretch 3 on the G string (C#) and a 2-3 pattern on the D string.

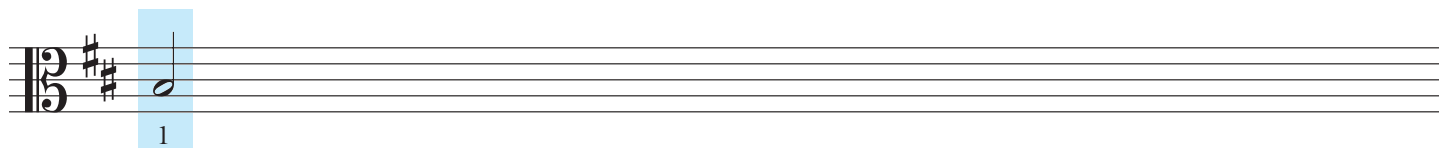


## Practice!

- Write the letter names under the notes. Then, color in the corresponding place of each note on the fingerboard. Silently practice the fingerings to check your work.

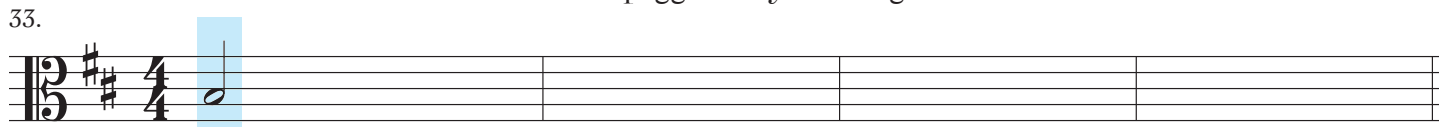


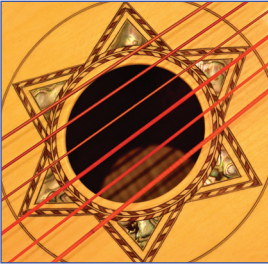
- On the staff below, write the B minor scale using  $\text{half note}$  ascending and descending. Then, write the scale degree under each note. The first note has been done for you.



## Ear Training H

Use the B minor scale degrees and these note values:  $\text{half note}$  and  $\text{quarter note}$  to notate this melody. The first note has been done. Draw a box around the arpeggio. Play the song.





## ¡Mariachi!

The word, "mariachi," can refer to the music, the ensemble, or perhaps one musician. The familiar sound of mariachi can be traced back to rural parts of Mexico, in the state of Jalisco. There, in the 1830s, "mariachi" was first used to name the small groups of amateur musicians and the style of folk music they played. The instrumentation of their groups was usually a small harp, a guitar, and two violins—instruments Spanish explorers and missionaries had brought to the New World. People added clapping, stomping, and whistling to the folk music, and any other instrument they may have had (or made). If the song had lyrics, everyone in the mariachi group took turns singing, too.

Mariachi was an important part of family celebrations and religious events such as weddings, funerals, baptisms, and quinceañeras (the special celebration on a girl's fifteenth birthday). It was music for listening but also music for dancing! Popularity of this style of folk music continued to grow, and by the first part of the 1900s, mariachi had spread beyond rural Jalisco. In cities, crowds gathered in public places such as parks or plazas to hear mariachi. Audiences often joined in by singing, dancing, clapping, or whistling with the music.



Photo Credit: Jose Luis Martinez Alvarez

In the 1930s and 1940s, after almost a century of tradition, changes to mariachi became more noticeable. For one, music was no longer based only on traditional folk songs. Many new, original pieces were being composed in mariachi style. Second, the sound of mariachi was getting bigger and louder. The vihuela and guitarrón were added to reinforce the part first played by the harp. The vihuela looks like a small fretted guitar with 5 strings, and its role is to add rhythmic energy to the music. The guitarrón is a large, fretless low-sounding instrument with a rounded back and 6 strings. Take a look at the guitarrón's decorative sound hole in the image\* at the top of this page. Both the guitarrón and vihuela are held in front of the body and plucked like a guitar.

One or two trumpets also added energy and power to the sound. To compete with the addition of all these instruments, the number of violins in most mariachi groups increased to six.

The unique musical style of playing violin in mariachi was also formalized. Compare these techniques to those required to play classical orchestra repertoire on your string instrument.

Mariachi Technique on Violin	Classical Orchestra Technique on your String Instrument
Use open strings and play in 1st position whenever possible.	
Use good bow pressure and a full bow stroke on each note.	
Play with the bow flat on the strings.	
Play with strong and fast vibrato.	

\*Image taken at the Musical Instrument Museum, Phoenix, AZ