

# December 1926

for Classical Guitar Trio, Violin Duo or Bassoon Duo

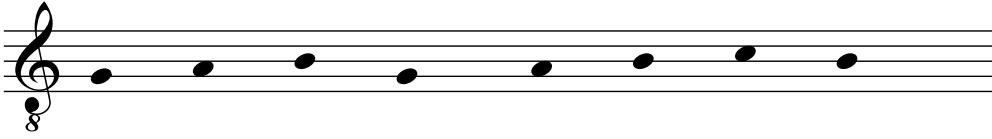
## Preface

*December 1926* may lead young performers – who are mostly beginners – to understand, experience and play a piece with an 'open form' in 'graphic notation'. This concept, established by Earle Brown in the 1950s, is fascinating and it encourages to think about music, composing and performing in general. It is, however, bound to a philosophy and reflections that maybe even some of us grown-ups barely understand. In order to avoid long monologues about 'parameters', 'determination' and 'dimensions' – which to young performers may not sound like 'fun' when they first hear it – the Little Preparatory Exercises will pick up young instrumentalists in their mindset for playing music. They are used to play three to five tones, quarter notes, mostly open strings or easy fingering and that is what the exercises start with. They then lead the musicians step by step to an 'open form' and 'graphic notation' in a playful way. Therefore the well-known note heads slowly change into 'events' without being named that and the horizontal and vertical dimension of a graphic score like Earle Brown's *December 1952* has been abstracted. To define the thickness of a 'dot' as proportional to the loudness is the easiest and most fun possibility, others may be tried later on.

Letting the eyes wander to the fattest and loudest 'dot' again and again will be fun for sure – having experienced an 'open form' and 'graphic notation' en passant will perhaps open a young instrumentalist's mind.

## Little Preparatory Exercise 1

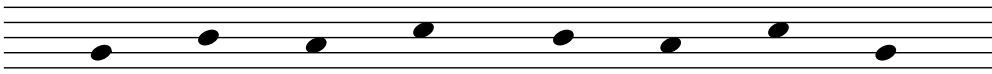
Play the following tones in any tempo you want, one student after the other.



## Little Preparatory Exercise 2

Play the following tones in any direction you want, one student after the other.

Maybe you want to start from the end or in the middle or maybe you want to change the direction of playing along the way?



## Little Preparatory Exercise 3

Play the following tones in any tempo and any direction you want, one student after the other.

Don't worry - the tone you'll pick will always be exactly the right one.



## Little Preparatory Exercise 4

Play the following tones in any tempo and any direction you want, one student after the other.

The thicker a note head is, the louder the tone is.

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## Little Preparatory Exercise 5

Now play the following tones together at the same time, your teacher is allowed to join in, if he or she has the courage to do so. Each one of you can start at any point and can play in any tempo and in any direction.

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## Little Preparatory Exercise 6

Now play the following tones together at the same time.

Each one of you can start anywhere and can play in any tempo and any direction, you may bend your head or - easier - just look up and down.

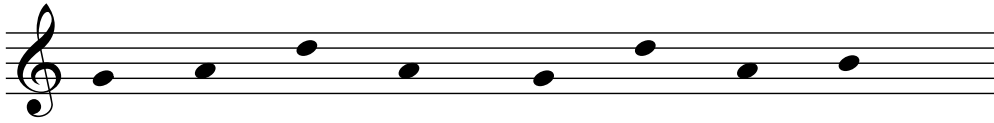
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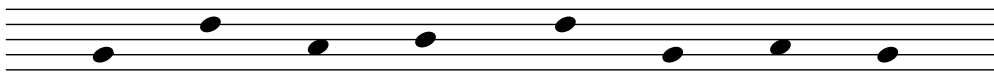
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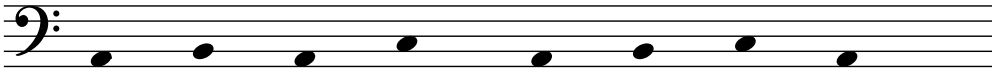
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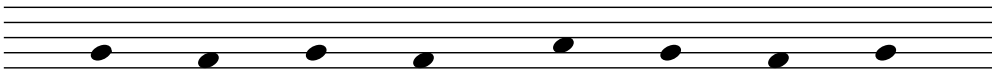
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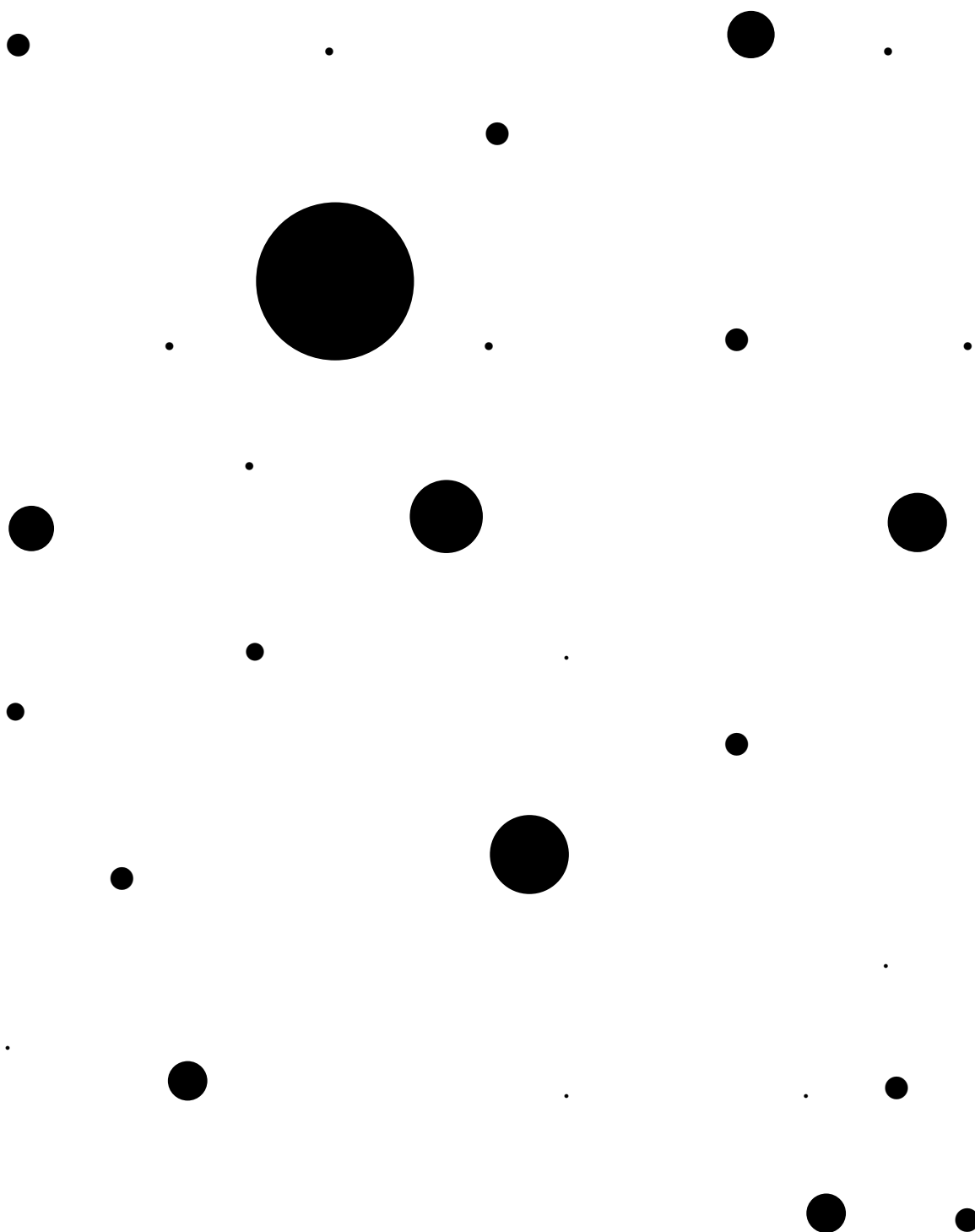
# December 1926

Now let your eyes wander over the page and play a tone when you see one.

Play together at the same time. Each one of you can start anywhere and can play in any tempo and in any direction.

The thicker a note head is, the louder the tone is.

Play for three minutes.



## Further Ideas:

- Play *December 1926* (the freaky dots on page 3) together as a group and agree on what else the thickness of the note heads may stand for, maybe the tone length or the tone height.
- Play *December 1926* together and agree on another total performance time.
- Invite other instruments to your *December 1926* performance group.
- Ask your teacher about Earle Brown and his cool ideas.
- Did you realize what you had – and the composer – decided should happen?
- Is there a difference between playing *December 1926* and everyone playing just what he or she wants?