

Contents and Notes on the Music – The Melodious Cellist, Volume 1

1st Thing First – Laven	1
Say the notes as you play, curve your finger and learn all of the first finger notes.	
Do As I Do, Follow Me! – Traditional	2
Lead your teacher along, use the circle bows to retake, then practice following too.	
Cloudy Day/Sunny Day – Laven	3
As you learn the second finger notes, notice what different moods you can create by changing between second and third finger.	
Third Finger Workout – Laven	4
No second fingers allowed in this piece! Try the four note slur on the Da Capo.	
Waltz – Anonymous arr. Laven	6
Make these three note slurs as smooth as possible, especially on the string crossings. Enjoy the melodic conversation between the voices.	
Shoot the Rapids! – Laven	7
Inspired by a white water rafting trip down Wyoming’s Snake River, the jagged pattern in cello 2 (teacher) sounds like the rugged boulders and fast current! Practice the hooked bows and don’t fall in!	
Far Away in Fairy Land – W.B. Olds	8
This lullaby was often sung by my mother-in-law to both of my boys when they were little. She learned it from her elementary songbook, from which it was adapted.	
Cello Boogie – Laven	9
Rock out with the boogie-woogie pattern in cello two, while cello one plays a snappy melody over top. Make sure to reach up and over with that fourth finger on string crossings, getting it really in tune. Perform it with shades on!	
Finger Buddies – Laven	10
When you need a fourth finger note, put all your finger down together. But third finger gets a chance on its own too, but don’t lift up four too far. As you create the swinging rhythm, don’t forget to count during the half note!	

Classics for the Young Cellist – Haydn/Beethoven/Mozart, arr. Laven 11

Familiar tunes complete with slurs, off the string bow strokes and even some shifting to add challenge. Teachers: feel free to add even more challenging fingerings!

Natasha’s Minuet – Lowmiller, arr. Laven 13

Written by string teacher Cathie Lowmiller, this tune works well with many different fingerings. Enjoy the catchy tune and Michelle Whalley’s illustration. Where do you think Natasha lives?

***A Blue Cello – Laven 15**

Get into the groove with the pizzicato bass line in cello two which sets the mood for this bluesy piece. Stretch back your first finger in cello one and listen to the effect of the Bb. Isn’t it great how the cello can play so many different characters?

***Gavotte – Lully 17**

A rather square baroque dance, in this one it’s fun to pass around the melody between players. Enjoy the range from low D to high D and back.

Rondo in F – Buononcini 19

Featuring a catchy melody in cello one, it also has a nice d minor section and a trill before the Da Capo. Make sure to try both parts!

Flow Gently, Sweet Afton – James E. Spilman 21

Listen to the river’s current in cello two while cello one smoothly navigates the shifts. The fermatas require a real team effort to keep this boat afloat!

***Ol’ Black Joe – Traditional 23**

Each player gets to show off with some sixteenth notes in this classic fiddle tune. Which part is your favorite?

***Bourree in G – Hasse 25**

Melodic hooked bowings, terraced dynamics, intricate ensemble work and a fourth position shift with trill are featured in this stately piece.

***Black Lake Theme – Laven 26**

I wrote this theme on a family fishing trip in northern Saskatchewan. Our First Nation guides shared their expertise and culture with us, inspiring this melody. After a while, I couldn’t stop humming it as we motored all around the lake.

***Bouncing on Black Lake – Laven 27**

Our fishing guides warned us that a wind would come up in the afternoon if we fished the far western edge of the lake, but we wanted to try anyway. Sure enough, it did and we had a long, bumpy ride home after a great day of fishing!

Gavotte in C – Bach (from 5th French Suite) 29

We are lucky to have so many fine examples of J. S. Bach's has inventive baroque dances. This is one of my favorites, with a memorable, flowing bass line.

***Moscow Memories – Laven 31**

Inspired from a trip to Moscow with the Boston Ballet, these melodies immediately take me back to the markets, museums and concert halls I explored there. This features very equal parts and shifting up to sixth position.

“Arise and Praise”, from Cantata 30 – Bach 33

A gentle and expressive piece, notice how Bach's walking bass line propels the music along. This piece is from one of Bach's Wedding Cantatas and the singer is expressing a lifetime of good wishes for the bride and groom.

***Fort Stockton Bound – Laven 35**

Written on my journey from Davis, California to Houston, Texas in my new VW Eurovan, I was enjoying the open road and the topography of West Texas. At this point I was heading towards Fort Stockton, Texas, after some killer Tex-Mex cuisine!

* = A cello trio version is available for his piece on www.stevelaven.com. You will be able to purchase the additional cello part and score separately, or the whole trio.

I'd love to have your feedback on this book, so let me hear from you! I can be reached at: stevelaven@comcast.net

What is your favorite piece? What does it make you think of? Have you written any music?
What do you like most about playing the cello?

Send me links to videos of you and a friend or teacher playing these pieces and I'll post them on my channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwmQU9Epj-ReyFnJyzEKY2g>

I will also post some myself and other favorite cello stuff I've come across.
See yours and share with others!