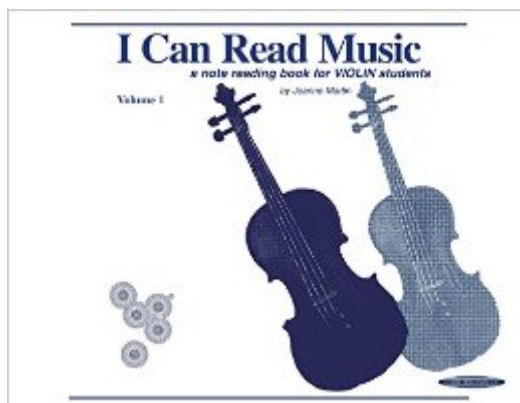


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# I Can Read Music, Volume 1: A Note Reading Book For VIOLIN Students



## Synopsis

These easy-to-read, progressive exercises by Joanne Martin develop a student's reading skills one stage at a time, with many repetitions at each stage. I Can Read Music is designed as a first note-reading book for students of string instruments who have learned to play using an aural approach such as the Suzuki Method®®, or for traditionally taught students who need extra note reading practice. Its presentation of new ideas is clear enough that it can be used daily at home by quite young children and their parents, with the teacher checking progress every week or two.

## Book Information

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Composition & Performance > Exercises

## Customer Reviews

I didn't find this useful at all. If you're starting from scratch and you don't know how to read music, I don't think this would help you, it didn't help me. It doesn't translate what the musical notes mean to position on the frets

This book is perfectly designed for the Suzuki lesson structure. If there is an able teacher and parent present to introduce and teach each lesson, the book is very successful. My students are

exposed to the basic concepts of music theory in a theory class following their weekly group classes - so there is no need to explain basic concepts like the "treble clef" or "staff." There are plenty of introductory reading books out there for the older beginner, but this book has a gradual yet not monotonous pace, catering to an early beginner who has a support structure (parent/teacher). I use this book for all of my students in a studio of 40+ Suzuki Violinists!

This is to be used by a teacher during lessons and then practiced at home. It is not a teach yourself system. It is designed for young children, and contrary to some thoughts out there, it does not squelch any musical desires. Young children love the fact that they can conquer a lesson a week, and love the way they can be successful - thereby celebrating every small step. I use this in my studio of 30 students, and as long as it is taught well, it is a challenge enjoyed by all. Read the intro - for the "pitch" section, you are to go through it saying all of the note names, then again with the finger numbers - both with steady pulse. Then you play it. The rhythm section is clapped, then played. I would highly recommend it.

I was very disappointed that it didn't offer a more in depth explanation and/or instruction. I am a parent without any experience in music helping my daughter to learn, and was very disappointed that it didn't offer any explanations of the lessons being taught. For the absolute beginner: Don't buy this as it is basically just a book with sheet music. I guess if you already know how to read sheet music you can make use of it, but for those who don't-it's practically useless. Perhaps I just misread the purpose of the book before buying it, but it will be a while before it is of any use to my daughter.

Both of my children started with this work book to develop their note reading skills. They were both about 5 years old when they began their note reading practice. My daughter progressed very quickly. I think the fact that she was already reading chapter books on her own may have helped; where my son who was not reading on his own struggled around the middle of Vol.1. So, we switched to flash cards and the other note reading book, "I Know A Fox With A Dirty Socks" which is more melodic. I made an enlarged copies of music from the book to make the reading easier. (in about the same size of the flash cards') Singing the words that comes with the melody also was helpful. I think it is a good gauge to use your children's reading skills to see if they are ready for a work book like this. Another words, children could start using this work book with the same pace that they read their native language. When we practice the "I Can Read Music" at home, we will first say the note names, clap the note values, then play on the violin. I never had to help them with the

finger placement on the finger board (because Suzuki Students usually have excellent hearing skills), but the note value that each holds. So, clapping together was a must. Both Vol. 1 and 2 has plenty of repetitions (in note reading concepts) and works well with Suzuki Book 1, 2 and/or 3. Each page comes with 4 lines, and easy to practice a little at a time. I highly recommend this series, since it is easy to incorporate however you would like it to work at any age. The series also was very helpful with my note reading skills (I gained the speed of note-reading. Suzuki Children have excellent listening skills, especially if they started their lessons at early age. This work book can help them to connect their audio skill to notes that they see on the music sheets which is important, especially, if they rely on their ears more than reading the notes.

This is a great note reading book for Suzuki trained children. It is very comprehensive in that the child really knows how to read the note and rhythm backwards and forward by the time they finish the book. The book keeps the pitch practice separate from the theory, but is set up into easy lessons. I use this with my violin students. I use one lesson a week. It takes about a year to complete it. I have the kids sing the names of the note in pitch before they ever play it. I do the same with counting the rhythms. I will not start a student note reading until they can proficiently play without their posture becoming compromise as I try to distract them while they play. I expect consistant good tone before a child ever begins to note read.

If you haven't already discovered the wealth and beauty of the Suzuki books, this book is no exception. I recommend it to any teacher or student looking to supplement the Suzuki method with sight-reading "exercizes", which don't really feel like exercizes. Each lesson builds sequentially on the one before. One concentrates on pitch, the other on rhythm. It starts at an extremely basic level, accessible to literally everyone.

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