



UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**BEGINNER STRINGS STUDENTS' APPROACHES IN
LEARNING NEW REPERTOIRE**

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DECLARATION OF AUTHORSHIP

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

UiTM is an educational institution in Malaysia. In terms of accepting student in the music program, UiTM Faculty of Music conducts auditions for young adults who are interested to enroll in music program. The audition is also to see the ability of potential candidates to play instruments or singing. Usually, majority of the young adults who interested in taking music program are the ones who have no basic in instruments playing or do not have any formal music. With the right criteria, UiTM is accepting the interested young adult to take part in music program.

Majority of the music students in UiTM start from scratch in learning an instrument. "Learning an instrument from scratch is a fascinating and potentially rewarding undertaking" (Cullen, 2009). Majority of the students who enroll in UiTM Faculty of Music have no formal music learning and they will be given an instrument for them to study throughout the years of study. The instruments given are officially their principal instrument. A principal lecturer is assigned to each of the student and the class is conducted in a one-to-one lesson.

The musical instruments can be difficult to play at the beginning. Usually, skills of playing an instrument are developed at a child stage. It was believed that young kids who start to learn musical instrument could play the instrument better than beginner adolescents, yet in Malaysia, there is a lack of awareness in music studies, thus this contributes to beginner in adult age. According to Ghaziah Ghazali & McPherson (2009) in their research, "the relatively low percentage of music learners in our sample suggests that many children and their parents are unaware of the positive value of music and the ways that music can benefit one's education".

Learning music is not an easy task. According to Brown (1996) in her research, she stated that students are expected to improve their music playing skills on musical instruments, while at the same time must learn and apply the concepts of musical notation in order for them to read music.

For this study, the researcher is focused on beginner strings students' approaches in learning new repertoire. According to a website, www.dictionary.com, beginner is defined as a person who begins the course of instruction or starts to learn the fundamentals. Therefore, music beginner can be concluded as a person who starts to learn music fundamentals.

Statement of Problem

Learning new repertoire is a process of learning and performing a work of music after a period of learning and practicing the repertoire. Students must learn the suitable ways to learn and practice new repertoire in order for them to perform the repertoire competently later. For this study, the researcher is focused on beginner strings students.

Some of the strings instruments basic characteristic such as fretless, might be puzzling for beginner students to learn new repertoire, however, if the students understand well about the instrument and perceive the suitable ways to tackle and approach the instrument, it can be less complicated to them. There are four types of instrument in string instruments family. The first one is violin. It is not wrong to say that violin is much well known than other string instruments in string family, however, according to Fernandez (2013) she stated that violin is the hardest instrument to play or learn. Come second after violin is viola. People are often confused between violin and viola because viola is slightly bigger in size but it has different tuning than violin. Viola also reads alto clef while violin reads treble clef.