

teacher's notes:

This piece builds on note reading skills acquired in the learning of *Rot und Schwarz*, building on the notes from *Rot und Schwarz* and adding a few white strings, always one step above either a red or black string. Students who can quickly read music presented in *Rot und Schwarz* will now begin to find the rest of the notes on their instrument.

teaching the music:

- 1) Remind your student that he can already find all the black and all the red strings from both the treble and bass cleff staff. Look through the music together and find them.
- 2) Point out that the new notes introduced in *Prelude Number 1* are *all* white strings and are *always* one step above a note your student can already find.
- 3) At first sight, many students cannot see the similarity of this piece to *Rot und Schwarz*. Encourage them to look for things they already know, building on the familiar. Explain that while this is a new piece of music, not all of it is new to them. They already know most of the notes and should not be discouraged. If necessary, put *Rot und Schwarz* on the left side of the music stand, and with *Prelude Number 1* on the right and compare notes. Only the eighth-notes between beats are new. Each piece of music is laid out on the page in the same manner, so comparing will be easy. Keep your explanations simple.
- 4) If *Rot und Schwarz* was learned using only second finger, then fingering this piece is easy. All the new notes are above the original notes. Use thumb for all the notes new to this piece. Using the same fingering for each pattern will help students find notes and to play the proper rhythm. Attention to rhythm is important because it is an aspect of note reading.
- 5) *Prelude Number 1* and *Rot und Schwarz* may be played as a duet. Playing duets can help students read faster and focus on steady tempo and rhythm better than playing alone or with a metrome. Students should be able to play either part, with a teacher or fellow student playing the other.