



## ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Guido A. Lavorata graduated with a degree in music education from the University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire, and studied music at Arizona State University. He taught music in the public schools for over 37 years. In 2007, he released a string method book with accompaniment recordings for violin, viola, cello, and bass entitled, “First Step Method for Beginning Strings.” His second book, “Americana Strings” for violin, viola, cello, and bass, includes additional worksheets, study guides, original music, and traditional folk songs along with accompaniment recordings available for download on [www.AmericanaStrings.org](http://www.AmericanaStrings.org).

“Americana Strings” includes many new songs that have advanced harmony parts whereby beginners and advanced students can play together. The songs provide a framework for teaching string pedagogy in a fashion that makes the learning process natural and adaptive for all types of learning styles. Lavorata believes that student mastery depends on the ability of the instructor to strategically introduce musical concepts, and resources in a sequential order of difficulty. The foundational approach in this book uses the 3R’s for learning: enough remedial resources, continuous repetition, and reflective review will make learning more effective. An outline of the procedure may be found on page four of “Americana Strings,” or by watching a live demonstration with students on YouTube by typing Americana Strings in the search bar.

Lavorata believes that laying a solid foundation will minimize students’ frustrations and provide a natural pathway to success. Drawing his inspiration from how children learn to speak their native language, he wondered how he could apply this same process of natural language acquisition to natural music acquisition. Educators thrive to equip students to become fluent readers and writers ultimately creating independent learners. Why should the teaching of music be any different? “Americana Strings” intends to equip students with confidence, the ability to become life-long musical performers, and to be skilled at writing songs of their own.

Enjoy, “Americana Strings.”

*Guido A. Lavorata*

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