

# OPEN String BLUES

## Activity 4: Open String Blues

In this activity, students extend the pattern used in Activity 3 to create a full blues pattern without the teacher/leader plucking a model. The accompaniment is recorded on the *String Explorer Accompaniment CD No. 1*, to provide motivating musical support for the students, and also assist in maintaining a steady beat.

Students should be made aware that the exercise numbers correspond to the track numbers on the *String Explorer Accompaniment CDs*.

### Additional Activity

In addition to performing "Open String Blues" with the CD recording, students should be provided with a basic understanding of the historical roots of the blues pattern. Additional blues recordings may be played as background or listening music when students enter and exit the classroom. Blues examples from the CD recording of Alfred's *Jazz Philharmonic* are highly recommended! The teacher may wish to play the excerpt of "D-Blues" from the listening CD in the *Teacher's Resource Kit* and have students play along. The following information provides a departure point for discussion about the blues:

- \* The blues pattern developed in late 19th-century America from African-American spirituals and work songs.
- \* The blues pattern is usually 12 measures long.
- \* Musicians use the blues pattern as a basis for *improvisation*.

## Activity 4: Open String Blues

Play all the notes of this tune on your own.

\*Numbering corresponds to track numbers on the *String Explorer CD*.

110

547

085

Chord symbols for the first system: D, D, D, D, D, D, D, D, D, D, D, D, G, G, G, G, G, G, G, G.

Chord symbols for the second system: D, D, D, D, D, D, D, D, A, A, A, A, G, G, G, G, D, D, D, D, D, D, D, D, G#dim, Asus, D7.

Repeat