Lesson Six: Basic Left Hand Plucking Skills

Traditionally, left hand is only used to do vibrato, bending and glissando on the guzheng. The left hand stays on the left side of the bridges most of the time. Now, we also use left hand to pluck on the right side of the bridges. In many guzheng music pieces, left hand plucking is used to play arpeggio and chords to accompany the melody. In the more advanced pieces, left hand is required to play just like the right hand.

It's not necessary to wear the picks on the left hand when your purpose is just to accompany the melody. You can pluck with bare fingers using your finger tips. In fact, many people like the fuller and warmer sound of the bear finger plucks. For advanced pieces when left hand is required to play as fast and clever like the right hand, wearing finger picks is necessary.

The notation for the left land is written on the bottom, and the notation for the right hand is written on the top.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 5 & \underline{53} & | & 2 & - & \longrightarrow & \text{Right hand playing part} \\ & & & \underline{6} & & \\ \underline{52} & \underline{5} & | & \underline{2} & \underline{2} & \longrightarrow & \text{Left hand playing part} \end{bmatrix}$$

Practice Drill 14-18 using left hand. These are common accompaniments.

Drill 14

$$\hat{1} \hat{5} \hat{1} - | 262 - | 313 - | 525 - |$$

Drill 15

$$\hat{1} \hat{3} \hat{5} \hat{5} \hat{1}$$
 | 2 5 6 2 | 3 6 1 3 | 5 1 2 5

Drill 16

Drill 17

Drill 18

(15) Little Town Story 小城故事

Weng Qingxi

$$\begin{bmatrix} \stackrel{\star}{=} \stackrel{\cdot}{2} \cdot \stackrel{\cdot}{3} \stackrel{\cdot}{5} & \stackrel{\dot{}}{1} & \stackrel{\dot{}}{6} & \stackrel{\dot{}}{6} \stackrel{\dot{}}{1} \stackrel{\dot{}}{6} & \stackrel{\dot{}}{5} & \stackrel{\dot{}}{5} & \stackrel{\dot{}}{5} \stackrel{\dot{}}{2} \stackrel{\dot{}}{3} & \stackrel{\dot{}}{2} & \stackrel{\dot{}}{1} & - & - & - & \vdots \\ \stackrel{\cdot}{2} - & - & - & \stackrel{\dot{}}{6} & - & \stackrel{\dot{}}{6} & - & \stackrel{\dot{}}{6} & - & \stackrel{\dot{}}{5} & - & - & - & \stackrel{\dot{}}{1} & - & \stackrel{\dot{}}{1} & - & \stackrel{\dot{}}{1} & - & \vdots \\ \end{matrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \underbrace{*}_{1}^{\underbrace{1}} \underbrace{\overset{.}{6}} \ \overset{.}{1}^{2} \ \overset{.}{3} \ \overset{.}{1} \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\overset{.}{\underline{2}}} \underbrace{\overset{.}{6}}_{1}^{\underbrace{1}} \ \overset{.}{5} \ \overset{.}{2} \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\overset{.}{6}}_{1}^{\underbrace{1}} \underbrace{\overset{.}{2}}_{3}^{\underbrace{1}} \underbrace{\overset{.}{3}}_{3}^{\underbrace{1}} \underbrace{\overset{.}{1}}_{1}^{\underbrace{1}} \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\overset{.}{5}} - - - - \begin{bmatrix} . \\ . \\ . \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{1} & \dot{1} & \dot{6} & \dot{5} & \underline{56} & | & \dot{5} & \underline{53} & 2 & \underline{23} & | & 5 & \underline{56} & 3 & 2 & | & 1 & - & - & - & : \\ \vdots & \dot{1} & - & \dot{1} & - & | & \dot{5} & - & \dot{2} & - & | & \dot{5} & - & \dot{3} & - & | & \dot{1} & - & \dot{1} & - & : \\ \end{bmatrix}$$

(16) Weeping Willow

$$1=D 3/4$$
 $1=92$

Korean Folk Song

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{5} & \dot{5} & \dot{5} & \dot{6} & \dot{\dot{6}} & \dot{\dot{5}} & \dot{\dot{6}} & \dot{\dot{1}} & - & - & \dot{\dot{1}} & - & - & \\ & \dot{5} & \dot{5} & \dot{\dot{5}} & \dot{\dot{6}} & \dot{\dot{6}} & \dot{\dot{1}} & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ & \dot{5} & \dot{\dot{2}} & \dot{\dot{2}} & \dot{\dot{6}} & \dot{\dot{3}} & \dot{\dot{3}} & \dot{\dot{1}} & \dot{\dot{5}} & \dot{\dot{5}} & \dot{\dot{1}} & \dot{\dot{5}} & \dot{\dot{5}} \\ \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{\dot{2}} & \dot{\dot{2}} & \dot{\dot{5}} & & \dot{\dot{3}} & & \dot{\dot{2}} & \dot{\dot{3}} \dot{\dot{2}} & & \dot{\dot{1}} & - & - & & \dot{\dot{1}} \dot{\dot{3}} & \dot{\dot{2}} \dot{\dot{1}} & \dot{\dot{6}} \\ & & & & & & & & & & \\ & 2 & 2 & & & 3 & 3 & & & 1 & 1 & & 1 & 6 \\ 2 & \dot{6} & \dot{6} & & \dot{3} & 1 & 1 & & 1 & 5 & 5 & & 1 & 5 & 3 \\ \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 5 & - & - & | & \frac{\dot{6}\dot{1}}{\dot{1}} & 5 & \dot{6} & | & \dot{1} & - & - & | & \dot{1} \cdot & \frac{\dot{\dot{3}}}{\dot{3}} & \frac{\dot{\dot{2}}\dot{\dot{1}}}{\dot{\dot{1}}} \\ & & & & & & & & \\ 5 & 5 & 5 & | & 6 & 6 & | & 1 & 1 & | & 1 & 1 \\ 5 & 2 & 2 & | & 6 & 3 & 3 & | & 1 & 5 & 5 & | & 1 & 5 & 5 \\ \end{bmatrix}$$

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5	5 2	5 2	é	6 3	6 3	5	5 2	5 2	5	5 2	5 2	

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{3} & \dot{3} & - & & \dot{3} \cdot & \dot{2} & \dot{3}\dot{2} & & \dot{1} & - & - & & \dot{1}\dot{3} & \dot{2}\dot{1} & \dot{6} \\ & & & & & & & & & & \\ & 3 & 3 & & & 3 & 2 & & 1 & 1 & & 1 & 6 \\ 3 & 1 & 1 & & 3 & 1 & \dot{6} & & 1 & 5 & 5 & & 1 & 5 & 3 \\ \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{5} & - & - & | & \dot{6}\dot{\dot{1}} & \dot{5} & \dot{6} & | & \dot{1} & - & - & | & \dot{1} \cdot & \dot{3} & \dot{2}\dot{\dot{1}} \\ & & & & & & & & \\ & 5 & 5 & | & 6 & 6 & | & 1 & 1 & | & 1 & 1 \\ 5 & \dot{2} & \dot{2} & | & \dot{6} & \dot{3} & \dot{3} & | & 1 & 5 & 5 & | & 1 & 5 & 5 \\ \end{bmatrix}$$