

## “GETTING IN THE GROOVE” Presented by Joe Deninzon

For years, I have played in string quartets that perform rock, jazz, Afro Cuban music, and funk. In a solo or chamber music setting where a drummer is not present, you have to BE the rhythm section and there are many fun techniques to discover!

I have also played as a member of numerous bands. In this setting, I discovered that a string player’s role can go beyond just playing melodic and contrapuntal lines but can also take the place of or groove along with a guitar, keyboard, or percussion instrument. We are as much a part of the rhythm section as we are melodic instruments. It’s up to us to prove that to the listeners and to the other musicians we collaborate with.

### In a chamber music setting, or solo looping

- chopping, scratching
- comping and strumming

### FORGET YOU chord inversions

Ceelo Green  
String Ar: Joe Deninzon

♩=127

Violin I

Viola

Cello chords

Cello bass line

### Forget You strum pattern

C

D

F

C

### As a member of a band with a rhythm section

- Double-stop “strumming” with bow
- “Nile Rogers” single note funky pizz lines.
- chorus string pads

**“Kool & The Nile” from Truefire “In the Jam” instructional video.**

### Kool & the Nile

Musical notation for 'Kool & the Nile'. Instrument 1 (top staff) is in treble clef with a Gm7 chord indicated above the first measure. Instrument 2 (bottom staff) is in bass clef with an 'ad lib' marking above the final measure. Both staves show a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and chords.

### This Love Main Riff

Maroon 5  
String Ar: Joe Deninzon

Musical notation for 'This Love Main Riff' for Violin, Viola, and Cello. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb) and the time signature is common time (C). The Violin part (top staff) features a melodic line with double stops. The Viola part (middle staff) features a rhythmic accompaniment with double stops. The Cello part (bottom staff) features a bass line with double stops. Chords G7/B, Cmin, Fmin, and Ddim7 are indicated above the measures.

**Practice techniques**

- Loop Pedal, practice vamping sections, then connecting to form song.
- Play through chords as double stops using only two strings at a time.
- For a funky “strummy” riff, first practice the regular pattern slowly with separate bowings, then try incorporating “ghosting” to imply the groove. Start slow, and work up to speed.

For more on this, check out my friend Tracy Silverman’s incredible book, “Strum Bowing.”