

# Using thumb and fingers together 2

## Controlling the length of your open string notes

These exercises are designed to help you control the length of your notes. They focus on when you are playing two parts at the same time. You should always assume that you need to play legato (smooth, with your notes joined together) unless you are told otherwise. This means your notes should ring for their full value

I have used open string exercises here. Open notes might seem easier to play than fretted notes, but they have their own special problem; a problem which affects very few instruments:

**With most instruments, you have to work to keep a note sounding. With an open guitar string, you have to work to stop it sounding.** If you play a wind or bowed instrument, the sound will stop as soon as you stop blowing or bowing. A guitar string will keep on vibrating until it runs out of energy. It is very easy to play an open string and forget about it, letting it ring through rests, or accidentally stopping it early by resting a finger on it.

These exercises will help you learn to control your long notes. Any muting must be done with the right hand fingers. Your thumb must float whilst bass notes are ringing. Do not use it to support your hand. It may rest on the string during rests, such as in exercises 1 -3.

EXERCISE 1

EXERCISE 2

EXERCISE 3

EXERCISE 4

EXERCISE 5

EXERCISE 6

EXERCISE 7

EXERCISE 8