

Duke Ellington School of the Arts

## **VIOLA TECHNIQUE I & II**

Grades 9, 10

### **Course Syllabus**

#### **Course Overview:**

Viola Tech I and II are for first and second year viola majors and are designed to give them a solid foundation in viola technique and performance. Students will have a weekly lesson emphasizing position, technique, good practice techniques (how to practice), and viola repertoire. The ultimate goal of the Viola Tech course is for all students to perform at a high level on their senior recital and college entrance auditions.

The focus of these classes will be on developing the student's skills and knowledge in the following areas: proper position, fundamental technique, tone production, vibrato, scales and arpeggios, various etudes, solo viola repertoire, practice techniques and habits.

#### **Content Standards:**

DCPS music content standards are basis for the core skills and concepts addressed in this course:

- Undertake daily instrument technique exercises.
- Learn to play through music notation and develop sight reading proficiency.
- Develop proficiency in performing assorted etudes and compositions.
- Learn to play a varied repertoire of music
- Understand the history and culture of the instrument

#### **Course Materials:**

Students are to own a scale book, etude books, and solo literature. After an assessment of the student's needs, appropriate literature will be assigned. The repertoire may be chosen from the following:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Position String Builder by Samuel Applebaum
- Kayser- Elementary and Progressive Studies, Op. 20, Book 1; Carl Fischer
- Mazas- Seventy-five Melodius and Progressive Studies, Op. 36, Book 1; Carl Fischer
- Wohlfahrt- Op. 45, Sixty Studies, Books 1 and 2; Schirmer
- Dont- 24 Studies, Op. 37; International Music Company

- Schradiack- The School of Viola Technique, Book 1, Exercises in Promoting Dexterity in the Different Positions
- Casorti- The Technic of the Bow, Op. 50; Carl Fischer
- Sevcik- op. 8, Shifting the Position; G. Schirmer
- Sevcik- op. 9, Preparatory Exercises in Double-Stopping; G. Schirmer
- Galamian- Scale and Arpeggio Exercises, Volume 1; Galaxy Music Corporation
- Flesch- Scale System, Scale exercises for daily study; Carl Fischer(arr. By Charlotte Karman)

Additional literature may be assigned as required. Note: Most of these etude books were originally composed for the violin. Be sure to purchase the book arranged for the viola.

### **Course Requirements**

1. Students must own or rent a viola.
2. All students are required to own and practice with a **METRANOME**.
3. Additional items that students must own for home use are a music stand and recording device (cell phone, tape recorder, mini disc, etc.)
4. Students must bring all required materials to class each day: music (i.e. scale book, etude books, solo repertoire, string ensemble and orchestra music, etc...), pencil, eraser, rosin, soft cloth to clean viola and bow, notebook for lesson notes.

### **Grading Procedures**

Students will be graded by:

1. Quality of class and homework assignments.
2. Evidence of a consistent daily practice schedule
3. Class attendance and promptness. Any absence must be supported by a note from home signed by a parent or legal guardian. Tardiness without a pass will affect the student's grade. Three unexcused tardy equal one unexcused absence. Five unexcused absences result in the failure of the course. Excessive excused absences will also affect the student's grade.
4. Class participation
5. Preparation for and quality of performances.
6. Two musical juries at mid-point and end of year

### **Dress requirements for juries and recitals**

Students will not be allowed to perform and will receive a failing grade for the jury or recital if they are not in the correct performance attire as indicated below.

- Male – black tailored suit (no saggy cuffs), white collared shirt, long matching black tie, black socks, and black shine-able dress shoes. For additional information, please seek advice from the designated male advisor.
- Female – black full-flowing dress culottes or black long skirt(T-length or longer) with black collared blouse, black/off black stockings and black dress shoes. No cleavage, midriff, bare shoulders or pants/pant suits allowed. All jewelry worn for performance must be modest and conservative. For additional information, please seek advice from the designated female advisor.



Grade	Tone Quality	Rhythm/Tempo	Rudiments/Technical Accuracy	Interpretation/Expression	Unexcused absences	Unexcused tardy
A to A-	In tune and distinct throughout with: accurate pitches, clear controlled tone, breath support, and correct bowing. Strong evidence of personal practice	All rhythms are performed accurately while performing at written metronome marking. Strong evidence of personal practice	Evidenced mastery of the music in performance of rhythm, melody, phrasing, articulation and intonation. Strong evidence of personal practice	Conveyed the theme and style of music with excellence; mood/dynamics very effective; maintained the integrity of the music as written. Strong evidence of personal practice	0 - 1	0 - 1
B+ to B-	In tune and nearly accurate throughout with pitches, controlled tone, breath support and correct bowing. Adequate evidence of personal practice	Most rhythms are performed accurately while performing at a given or altered metronome marking. Adequate evidence of personal practice	Evidenced near mastery in performance of rhythm, melody, phrasing, articulation and intonation. Adequate evidence of personal practice	Conveyed the theme and style of music most of the time; expresses mood and dynamics effectively most of the time; maintained the integrity of the music as written. Adequate evidence of personal practice	2	2-4
C+ to C-	Mostly in tune and accurate throughout with minor inconsistencies in one or two tonal components. Evidence of personal practice	The tempo is unsteady at times and some rhythms are inaccurate, not adhering to metronome marking. Evidence of personal practice	Evidenced some mastery of rhythm, melody, phrasing, articulation and intonation but performance is inconsistent. Evidence of personal practice	Somewhat conveyed the theme and style of music; limited development of music: dynamics, mood, style, and expression. Evidence of personal practice	3	5-7
D+ to D	Many pitches are played incorrectly and out of tune. Little evidence of personal practice	The tempo is noticeably faster or slower and the beat is inconsistent throughout. Little evidence of personal practice	Evidenced little or no mastery of rudiments/technique in performance. Little evidence of personal practice	Poor or no development of music; poor or no application of dynamics, mood, style, expression. Little evidence of personal practice	4	8 - 9
F	Unable to perform, completely unprepared. No evidence of personal practice	Unable to perform, completely unprepared. No evidence of personal practice	Unable to perform, completely unprepared. No evidence of personal practice	Unable to perform, completely unprepared. No evidence of personal practice	5 or more	10 or more

**\*\*MISSING A PERFORMANCE (UNEXCUSED) WILL RESULT IN FAILURE OF THE ADVISORY.**

**\*\*MISSING TWO OR MORE PERFORMANCES (UNEXCUSED) WILL RESULT IN FAILURE OF THE CLASS**

### **Performance numerical Breakdown of Rubric**

20% Tone Quality  
20% Rhythm/Tempo  
20% Rudiments/Technical Accuracy  
20% Interpretation/Expression  
20% Scales (all Major, and all forms of Minor)

*Attendance and Behavior will affect the overall grade.*

### **Attendance**

Unexcused absences and tardy will affect the student's overall grade as listed in the rubric and community handbook. All performances and performance rehearsals are mandatory.

### **Behavior**

Every five demerits will reduce a student's performance grade by one letter (i.e. Performance grade =B+, student receives 10 demerits for the advisory, student's grade for the advisory = D+).

Demerits will be issued for but not limited to the following infractions:

Unauthorized talking/conversations  
Eating food or chewing gum  
Being disruptive to class

Demerits may be removed by completing extra-credit at the discretion of the director.

I have received and read the Viola I & II Course Syllabus. I agree to meet all course requirements and objectives as listed in the syllabus.

\_\_\_\_\_  
STUDENT'S SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
PARENT'S SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

Please return this signed form to the teacher.