

Violin/Viola Technique I, II, III & IV

Instructor: Bruno Nasta

Course: Violin/Viola Technique

Credit: One Carnegie Unit

Course Syllabus

Course Description:

The Violin/Viola Technique course is designed to help each student maximize their potential while preparing them for a performance audition at the collegiate level. Levels I & II meet the needs of each student by assessing their level of ability and then focusing on their technique to ensure a solid foundation of playing ability. Levels III & IV are designed to start preparing each student for the Senior Recital as well as college auditions.

Course Standards:

This course follows the benchmarks outlined by the DCPS music curriculum for performance. Students are required to perform in juries and student recitals.

Course Outline:

Levels I & II -- Students are assigned individual lessons consisting of various technical exercises for the enhancement of the left hand as well as the bow hand, all major & minor one and two octave scales and arpeggios. Etudes are assigned based on the student's needs for developing specific techniques and may be chosen from etudes by Wohlfahrt, Kayser, Mazas, Kreutzer and others. Solo repertoire assignment is based on the individual skill level, student's needs and stage of development.

Level I

Core Technical Expectations

- Correct posture, physical coordination, encouraging flexibility of the hands
- Established note-reading, including correct pitches and rhythms
- Basic skills for correct pitch placement

- Use of positions with different fingering patterns
- Basic, full and partial bow strokes with correct placement at sounding point, straight path and direction: détaché, legato, spiccato, slurs and string crossings

Level II

Core Technical Expectations

- Refinement of skills in previous level
- Shifting techniques from first position to third position to fifth position
- Varied rhythmic patterns in scales, etudes and solos
- More varied and complex string crossings, adding colle, martele, and longer slurs

Level III & IV – Students are assigned individual lessons focusing on development of playing technique and musicianship, including exercises, scales and arpeggios, etudes and solo repertoire. Etudes are assigned based on the student's needs for developing specific techniques and may be chosen from etudes by Mazas, Kreutzer, Dancla, Rode and others. Solo repertoire assignment is based on the individual skill level, student's needs and stage of development.

Level III

Core technical Expectations

- Refinement of skills from previous levels
- Proficiency in first and third positions; use of second, fourth and fifth positions
- Vibrato
- Dynamics with good tone quality and musical expression
- Proficiency in basic bow-strokes with increased flexibility; Increased accuracy of intonation
- Musical expression- use of dynamics and clear phrasing
- Use of more advanced skills- chords, trills, up and down-bow staccato.

Level IV

Core technical Expectations

- Proficiency in skills of previous levels, including basic position, left hand and bow-arm techniques and use of correct dynamics.

- Vibrato with continuity.
- 3-4 octave scales and arpeggios for all major and minor scales
- 2-octave scales in double-stops.
- Repertoire which utilizes all positions
- Understanding and demonstration of articulations and expression.

Course Requirements:

1. Students must own or rent a violin.
2. All students are required to own and practice with a metronome.
3. Students must have a music stand at home, proper seating and a dedicated practice space.
4. Students must bring all required materials to class each day: solo music, etude and scale book, music for string ensemble and/or orchestra, pencil and notebook.
5. Students must be on time.
6. Students must PRACTICE!
7. Students must be prepared for juries, recitals and all performances.
8. Students must have a teachable spirit and a willingness to learn.
9. Students must respect their teachers and peers and behave according to handbook guidelines.
10. Students must be properly dressed for all performances including juries.
11. **No use of cell phones in class. (See Handbook)**
12. **No inappropriate attire. (See Handbook)**

Grading Procedures:

Students will be graded upon their preparedness and quality of performances

Practice – 10%

Practice & Application - 50%

Assessments – 40%

I have received and read the syllabus for the Violin/Viola Technique Course and agree to meet all the course requirements and objectives listed in the syllabus and have read and understood the DESA handbook.

Student's signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent's signature: _____

Date: _____