

Cello Curriculum

Juries should be performed with piano accompaniment. For exams it is preferred but not required.

At least one piece should be performed from memory for all exams and juries. Scales, movements of Bach and Concerto movements should be memorized.

Level I

Technique

- Develop a balanced and natural seated position
- Introduce bow hold with accompanying exercises for flexibility and control
- Pizzicato and basic bowing principles in the lower part of the bow
- Open strings for sound production and 1st position
- Simple tunes to be performed from memory with basic dynamic contrast

Suggested Repertoire

- Cello Time Series for Cello, Kathy & David Blackwell, OUP
- Time Pieces for Cello, Black and Harris, Vol 1
- Essential Elements for Strings, Allen, Gillespie, Hayes. Book 1
- I Can Read Music by Joanne Martin
- Krane New School of Cello Playing Vol 1
- Dotzauer book 1
- Suzuki book 1, tunes 1-14
- Beautiful Music for two instruments (cello) Samuel Applebaum
- Other pieces especially in C and G major

Exam Requirements for Level I

- One octave scale and arpeggio, C, G or D major. One note per bow
- Two pieces or etudes. At least one piece from memory.

Level 1.5

Technique

- More complicated bowing patterns
- Exploration of the use of the middle and upper half of the bow
- Forward and backward extension
- Musical expression to include dynamic contrast and showing different moods or colors in the music

Suggested Repertoire

- Bach for the Cello, Krane
- Suzuki book 1, tunes 15-17 and book 2, tunes 1-2
- Violoncello Music for Beginners Lengyel.E/Pejtsik.A Volume 1
- Sheila Nelson, Piece by Piece Vol 1
- Feuillard 60 Studies for the Young Cellist
- Cello Time Joggers, Blackwell, OUP

Exam Requirements for Level 1.5

- D major scale and arpeggio in 2 octaves, one note per bow
 - One other scale and arpeggio, major or minor- One note per bow
 - Two pieces or etudes. At least one from memory.
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Level II

Technique

- Shifting to 2nd, 3rd and 4th positions
- Basic double stops to develop hand position and strength
- Extensions, forward and backwards

Suggested Repertoire

- Krane New School of Cello playing, Vol 2
- Solos for Young Cellists Carey Cheney volume 1 and 2
- Suzuki book 2
- Applebaum 20 Progressive Solos for cello
- Rudolf Matz, Little Suite
- Sheila Nelson, Piece by Piece Vol 2
- Schroeder 170 Foundation studies
- Rick Mooney Position Pieces for cello, Vol 1
- Rick Mooney Double Stops for Cello
- Sevcik shifting exercises
- Hindemith Drei Leichte Stucke
- Lee Studies Op 101
- Cello Time Sprinters, Blackwell, OUP

Exam Requirements for Level II

- 2 scales and 2 arpeggios. Including one major and one minor, 2 octaves. Separate and slurred bowing
 - An etude
 - A solo piece from memory
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Level III

Technique

- Add 5th, 6th and 7th positions
- Introduce Q position
- Introduce reading in the Tenor Clef
- Introduce one octave scales in thirds and sixths.
- More complicated string crossing patterns covering all 4 strings
- Vibrato can be introduced depending on student and repertoire

Suggested Repertoire

- Bach Suite No 1
- Suzuki Book 3
- Solos for Young Cellists Carey Cheney volume 2 and 3
- Dotzauer 113 Exercises
- Popper Preparatory studies- 15 Easy Studies
- Rick Mooney position pieces, book 2
- Scaling the Tenor Clef Dragon
- Pieces by WH Squire
- First Repertoire for cello, Patt Legg and Alan Gout
- Violoncello Music for beginners Volume 3, published by Editio Musica Budapest
- Romberg Op. 43 Sonatas

Exam Requirements for Level III

- 2 scales and 2 arpeggios. Including one major and one minor, 2 octaves. Should include E flat or another that demonstrates multiple positions. Separate and slurred bowings
- An etude
- A solo piece from memory

Level IV

Technique

- Q position
- Tenor clef
- Introduce Treble clef
- Repertoire should be performed with vibrato
- Continuation of work with mixed bowing patterns (slurred and separate)
- Increase velocity
- Develop richness of sound in double stops
- Perform longer pieces with greater sense of communication- dynamics, colour, mood etc

Suggested Repertoire

- Bach Suite 1
- Suzuki book 4
- Goltermann Concerto in G Op 65 all movements
- Reiding concerto in b minor
- Fun in Q position Hans Jorgen Jensen
- Kummer cello method
- Minsky 'Ritmo Caribano' from 10 American Cello Etudes, OUP
- Marcello sonatas
- Vivaldi sonatas
- Popper Gavotte
- Squire Danse Rustique

Jury Requirements for Level IV

- 2 scales and 2 arpeggios. Including one major and one minor. Separate and slurred bowing. 3 Octaves
- One Q position scale with Q starting on C or D (on D string), one octave
- An etude
- 2 contrasting pieces (at least one from memory). May include Bach, show piece and/or concerto movement

Level V

Technique

- Student should be fluent in tenor and starting to read treble clef
- Q position should be a familiar place!
- Scales in 3rds and 6ths, 2 octaves

Suggested Repertoire

- Bach suites 1-2
- Breval Concerto in D major
- Sammartini Sonata
- Eccles Sonata
- Fauré Elegy
- Bruch Kol Nidrei
- Saint Saens Allegro Appassionato
- Bocherrini Concerto in G, 1st movt
- Couperin Pieces en Concert
- Goltermann Etude Caprice
- Accolay 1st Concertino (adapted for cello by Bazelaire)
- Duport studies- No 6
- Julie-O
- Popper "mittelschwere" Etudes Op 73
- Sevcik 40 Bowing Exercises
- Rudolf Matz 24 Short Etudes (Q position and treble clef)

Jury Requirements for Level V

- 2 scales and 2 arpeggios. Including one major and one minor. Separate and slurred bowing. 3 Octaves
- Scales in 3rds and 6ths in C or D, 2 octaves
- An Etude
- 2 contrasting pieces (at least one from memory). May include Bach, show piece and/or concerto movement

Level VI

Technique

- Student should be playing at a level appropriate for college entry.

Suggested Repertoire

- Duport studies
- Popper High School 1,2,3,5,6
- Bach Suites 1-3
- Van Goens Scherzo
- Popper Hungarian Rhapsody
- Popper Tarantella
- Dohnanyi Konzertstück Op
- Haydn Concerto in C
- Boherrini Concerto in B flat (Grutzmacher edition) 1st movt
- Saint-Saens concerto
- Lalo Concerto
- Elgar Concerto Movts 1 and 2
- Schumann Fantasy Pieces
- Brahms E minor Sonata
- Shostakovich Sonata
- Bach Gamba sonata in D major 1st and 2nd movements
- Beethoven Variations 'Bei Mannern' or 'Judas Maccabeus'
- Reger Unaccompanied suite in d minor

Jury Requirements for Level VI

- 2 scales and 2 arpeggios. Separate and slurred bowing. 3 Octaves. Students should perform arpeggios from one of the recognized systems. This will include major, minor diminished and augmented – for example:
 - Flesch arranged for cello by Wolfgang Boettcher
 - Galamian arranged for cello by Hans Jorgen Jensen

- Feuillard Daily Exercises for cello p29-31
 - Scale in octaves, one octave
 - Scales in 3rds and 6ths in C or D, 3 octaves
 - An etude
 - 2 contrasting pieces (at least one from memory). May include Bach, show piece and/or concerto movement
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Updated 3/19/21