

ECMS Cello Curriculum

Juries (levels 4-6) should be performed with piano accompaniment. For Exams (level 1-3) accompaniment is preferred but not required.

Scales, movements of Bach and Concerto movements should be memorized.

Level 1

Technique

- Develop a balanced and natural seated position
- Pizzicato and basic bowing principles in the lower part of the bow
- Simple tunes in first position to be performed from memory

Possible Repertoire

- Cello Time Joggers, Kathy and David Blackwell, OUP
- Essential Elements for Strings, Allen, Gillespie, Hayes. Book 1
- I can read Music by Joanne Martin
- Suzuki book 1, tunes 1-14

Exam Requirements

- One octave scale and arpeggio, C, G or D major, one note per bow
 - Two pieces or etudes.
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LEVEL 1.5

Technique

- 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

Possible Repertoire

- Time Pieces for Cello, Black and Harris, Vol 1
- 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
- Krane New School of Cello Playing Vol 1
- Lee Studies Op 101 'First Steps in Violoncello Playing' (includes second cello part)

Exam Requirements

- D major scale and arpeggio, two octaves, one note per bow
 - One other major scale and arpeggio, one octave, slurred.
 - Two pieces or etudes. At least one from memory
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LEVEL 2

Technique

- Shifting to 2nd 3rd and 4th positions
- More complicated bowing patterns

Possible Repertoire

- Solos for Young Cellists Carey Cheney volume 1
- Suzuki book 2
- Rick Mooney Position Pieces for cello, Vol 1
- Dotzauer 113 Exercises

Exam Requirements

- One major and one minor scale and arpeggio, 2 octaves, separate and slurred
 - 2 solo pieces, one from memory
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LEVEL 2.5

Technique

- Vibrato can be introduced depending on student and repertoire
- Basic double stops to develop hand position and strength (broken thirds)

Possible Repertoire

- Popper 15 Easy Studies for Violoncello, Op 76a
- Solos for Young cellists Carey Cheney volume 2
- Suzuki book 3

Exam Requirements

- One major and one minor scale and arpeggio, 2 octaves, separate and slurred
- An etude
- A solo piece from memory

LEVEL 3

Technique

- Add 5th, 6th and 7th positions
- Introduce reading in tenor clef
- More complicated string crossing and bowing patterns

Possible Repertoire

- Krane New School of Cello playing, Vol 2
- Schroeder 170 Foundation studies
- Suzuki book 4
- Solos for Young cellists Carey Cheney volume 3
- Violoncello Music for beginners Volume 3, published by Editio Musica Budapest
- Pop Goes the Cello, Aaron Minsky

Exam Requirements

- One major and one minor scale and arpeggio, 2 octaves, separate and slurred. Should include E flat or another key that demonstrates multiple positions.
- An etude
- A solo piece from memory

LEVEL 3.5

Technique

- More complicated bowing patterns
- Introduce Q position
- Introduce treble clef

Possible Repertoire

- Fun in Q Position, Hans Jensen
- Rick Mooney position pieces, book 2
- Suzuki Book 5
- Brevet Concerto in D major
- Unbeaten Tracks, edited by Steven Isserlis

Exam Requirements

- C or D major scale and arpeggio, three octaves
- One octave scale in 6ths

- One minor scale and arpeggio, 2 octaves, separate and slurred
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LEVEL 4

Technique

- Repertoire should be performed with vibrato
- Continue work on mixed bowing patterns (slurred and separate)
- Increase velocity
- Develop richness of sound
- Perform longer pieces with greater sense of communication- dynamics, colour, mood etc

Possible Repertoire

- Suzuki Book 6
- Bach Suite 1
- Goltermann Concerto in G Op 65 all movements
- Marcello sonatas
- Popper Gavotte

Jury Requirements

- One major and one minor scale and arpeggio, 3 octaves, separate and slurred
 - 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).
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LEVEL 5

Technique

- Comprehensive knowledge of Q position and higher positions
- Double stops including scales in 3rds and 6ths.

Suggested Repertoire

- Bach suites 1-2
- Gamba Sonata in D major
- Haydn Concerto in C first movement
- Sammartini Sonata
- Faure Elegy
- Bruch Kol Nidrei
- Saint Saens Allegro Appassionato
- Boccherini Concerto in G, 1st movt
- Boccherini Concerto in B flat (Grutzmacher edition)1st movt

- Saint Saens Concerto
- Scherzo by Van Goens
- Julie-O
- Duport studies
- Popper Etudes Op 73
- Sevcik 40 Bowing Exercises
- Rudolf Matz 24 Short Etudes (Q position and treble clef)

Jury Requirements

- 2 scales and 2 arpeggios, including one major and one minor, 3 octaves, separate and slurred
 - Scale in 3rds and 6ths in C or D, 2 octaves
 - An etude
 - 2 contrasting pieces (at least one from memory). Must include show piece and/or concerto movement
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LEVEL 6

Technique

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

Possible Repertoire

- Popper High School
- Bach Suites 1-3
- Popper Hungarian Rhapsody
- Popper Tarantella
- Dohnanyi Konzertstuck Op
- Haydn Concerto in C, movements 2 and 3
- Lalo Concerto
- Elgar Concerto
- Schumann Fantasy Pieces
- Brahms E minor Sonata
- Shostakovich Sonata
- Beethoven Variations 'Bei Mannern' or 'Judas Maccabeus'
- Goltermann Etude Caprice
- Reger Unaccompanied suite in d minor
- 'Draw the Sacred Circle Closer' by Adolphus Hailstork
- Four Pieces by Tania León

Jury Requirements

- 2 scales and 2 arpeggios, 3 octaves, separate and slurred. Students should perform arpeggios from one of the recognized systems. This will include major, minor, diminished and augmented. Examples could include:

- Flesch arranged for cello by Wolfgang Boettcher
 - Galamian arranged for cello by Hans Jorgen Jensen
 - Feuillard from the 'daily exercises'
- 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). Must include show piece and/or concerto movement