ECMS Cello Curriculum

Juries should be performed with piano accompaniment

Bach and Concerto movements from memory

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

• 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

Jury Requirements

• One octave scale and arpeggio, C, G or D major. One note per bow
• Two pieces or etudes from the list above.

LEVEL I.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

Jury Requirements

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

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
• Sevcik shifting exercises
• Hindemith Drei Leichte Stucke
• Lee Studies Op 101

Jury Requirements

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

LEVEL III

Technique
• Add 5th, 6th and 7th positions
• 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 (except for 8 and 10)
• 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
• Rick Mooney Double stops
• Pieces by WH Squire
• First Repertoire for cello, Patt Legg and Alan Gout
• Violoncello Music for beginners Volume 3, published by Editio Musica Budapest

Jury Requirements

• 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
• C major in thirds and sixths, one octave (can be broken slurs)
• An etude
• A solo piece from memory

LEVEL IV

Technique

• Introduction of Q position
• Tenor 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 Jensen
• Kummer cello method
• Minsky ‘Ritmo Caribano’
• Marcello sonatas
• Vivaldi sonatas
• Popper Gavotte
• Squire Danse Rustique

Jury Requirements

• 2 scales and 2 arpeggios. Including one major and one minor. Separate and slurred bowing. 3 Octaves
• Scale in 3rd and 6ths, 2 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!

Suggested Repertoire

• Bach suites 1-2
• Breval Concerto in D major
• Sammartini Sonata
• Eccles Sonata
• Faure 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
• Sevcik 40 Bowing Exercises
• Rudolf Matz 24 Short Etudes (Q position and treble clef)

Jury Requirements

• 4 scales and 4 arpeggios. Including two major and two minor. Separate and slurred bowing. 3 Octaves
• Scale in octaves, one octave
• 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
• Bocherrini 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

• 4 scales and 4 arpeggios. Including two major and two minor. Separate and slurred bowing. 3 Octaves
• 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