

VIOLA—LEVEL 3

Performance Exam Requirements
Duration of examination: 10 minutes

Scales and Arpeggios (Memory is required.)

Play one scale and arpeggio from each of these three categories:

1. Two-octave major scale and tonic arpeggio in D, Eb, F, or G.
2. One-octave major scale and tonic arpeggio in Db (lower octave), Ab, or A.
3. One-octave melodic minor scale and tonic arpeggio in c, g, or d, starting on open string.

Metronome: quarter note = 60-69

Scales: slur two or four eighths.

Arpeggios: slur two or three quarters.

Use whole bows on all.

Note: All required scales for this level are printed on the pages following the repertoire listing.

Etude (Memory is not required.)

One. Etudes must exceed 16 non-repeated measures.

Pieces (Memory is strongly recommended and will be graded.)

One or two

A fast sonata or concerto movement counts as one piece.

Sight-reading

Note: Sight reading is currently only part of the in-person exam.

Two-octave range

Major keys up to two sharps and two flats.

Meters: 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 6/8

Note values: whole, half, quarter, eighth, dotted half, and dotted quarter notes; quarter rests

Two-note slurs

Recommended Goals for Level 3

Good posture

Good right hand position

Good left hand position

Good intonation

Clear tone

Correct rhythm

Bowings: détaché, staccato, martelé and legato

Introducing shifting above the first position
Confident use of whole bow and bow division
Dynamics: crescendo and diminuendo
Beginning of vibrato on longer notes
Ritardando

Examples of Music Suitable for Level 3

Note: Teachers may choose any publisher or any other works of comparable level. Listings with asterisks cover more than one level. Please check the guidelines and recommendations for this level to determine if a selection is level appropriate.

Scale Books

Allen/Gillespie/Hayes: Essential Technique for Strings (Hal Leonard)
Anderson: Essentials for Strings
Bauer: Progressive Scale Studies for Viola*
Blackwell: Viola Time Scales*
Brown: Two-Octave Scales and Bowings for the Viola*
Mogill: Scale Studies*
Whistler: Intermediate Scales and Bowings for Strings*

Etudes and Technical Studies

Blackwell: Viola Time Sprinters*
Cohen: Superstudies, Book 2
Gazda: Studies in Lyricism
Harvey: Double Stop Beginners for Viola, Books 1 & 2
Harvey: Third Position Study Book for the Viola, Book 1
Hofmann: First Studies
Hofmann: Melodic Double Stop Studies
Sassmannshaus: Early Start on the Viola, Vols. 3 & 4 (selections must be 16+ mm. not counting repeats)
Sitt: Practical Viola School
Trott: Melodious Double Stops, Book 1
Tucker Rhoda: Complete Technique for Viola, Book 1
Whistler: Introducing the Positions, Book 1
Wohlfahrt: Sixty Studies, Op. 45, Book 1
Wohlfahrt/Aiqouni: Foundation Studies, Book 1*

Pieces

Bach/Arnold: March in G (from Basic Bach for the Young Violist)
Bach/Arnold: Musette (from Basic Bach for the Young Violist)
Bach/Murphy: 10 Little Classics*

Barns: Aria (from Viola Music by Women, ed. Cooper)
Bartel: Lil Blue (from Kansas Memories Suite) (from Viola Music by Women, ed. Cooper)
Bass & Harris: Time Pieces for Viola, Vols. 1 & 2*
Blackwell: Viola Time Sprinters* (use fingerings in higher positions)
Bridge: Four Pieces, No. 1
Dabczynski & Phillips: Fiddler's Philharmonic Encore*
Dodd: Viola Album: 11 Transcriptions in the first position
Etling: American Dance (from Solo Time for Strings, Book 2)
Etling: Irish Folk Songs (from Solo Time for Strings, Book 2)
Etling: Scottish Songs (from Solo Time for Strings, Book 2)
Herfurth/de Veritch: 43 Pieces*
Hook/Applebaum: Sonatina
Humperdinck/Barber: Children's Prayer from Hansel and Gretel (from Solos for Young Violists, Vol. 1, ed. Barber)
Hungerford: The Marionettes (from Viola Music by Women, ed. Cooper)
Jenkinson: Elfentanz (Viola World)
Lamb & Meredith: More Time Pieces for the Viola, Vol. 1 (ABRSM)
Nelson: Piece by Piece 2*
Norgaard: Jazz Viola Wizard Jr., Book 1*
O'Connor: Viola Method, Book III
Papini/Barber: The Sleeping Princess (from Solos for Young Violists, Vol. 1, ed. Barber)
Rieding: Concerto in b minor, Op. 35 (Bärenreiter) (NB: transposed to e minor)
Schubert/Barber: March Militaire (from Solos for Young Violists, Vol. 2, ed. Barber)
Suzuki: Viola School, Vol. 3
Trott: The Town Clock (from Viola Music by Women, ed. Cooper)
Wilkinson & Hart: First Repertoire for Viola, Books 2 & 3
Witt: Scottish Fiddling for Viola

Suggestions for additional study material, not suitable for the exam:

Allen/Gillespie/Hayes: Essential Elements 2000, Book 2 (Hal Leonard)
Ayola: Winning Rhythms*
Barber: Fingerboard Geography*
Etling: Workbook for Strings, Book 2
Fischbach/Frost: Viva Vibrato
Harris: Improve your sight-reading!*Harvey: Serial Shifting for the Viola
Harvey: Finger Exercises, for the Viola, Book 1
Kember & Smith: Viola Sight-Reading 1 (Schott)
Smith: Beginner Viola Theory for Children, Books 2 & 3*
Surmani & Manus: Alfred's Essentials of Music Theory*

Viola - Level 3

D Major

Alternate bowing

E \flat Major

Alternate bowing

F Major

Alternate bowing

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G Major

Alternate bowing

D \flat Major

Alternate bowing

A \flat Major

Alternate bowing

A Major

Alternate bowing

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C minor

First system of musical notation for C minor, 4/4 time. The staff contains a sequence of eighth notes: C4, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The notes are grouped into four pairs, each pair connected by a slur.

Alternate bowing

Second system of musical notation for C minor, 4/4 time. The staff contains a sequence of eighth notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The notes are grouped into four pairs, each pair connected by a slur. A double bar line is placed after the fourth measure, with a 3/4 time signature change indicated below the staff.

G minor

First system of musical notation for G minor, 4/4 time. The staff contains a sequence of eighth notes: G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3. The notes are grouped into four pairs, each pair connected by a slur.

Alternate bowing

Second system of musical notation for G minor, 4/4 time. The staff contains a sequence of eighth notes: G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3. The notes are grouped into four pairs, each pair connected by a slur. A double bar line is placed after the fourth measure, with a 3/4 time signature change indicated below the staff.

D minor

First system of musical notation for D minor, 4/4 time. The staff contains a sequence of eighth notes: D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3. The notes are grouped into four pairs, each pair connected by a slur.

Alternate bowing

Second system of musical notation for D minor, 4/4 time. The staff contains a sequence of eighth notes: D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3. The notes are grouped into four pairs, each pair connected by a slur. A double bar line is placed after the fourth measure, with a 3/4 time signature change indicated below the staff.