

VIOLA—LEVEL 8

Performance Exam Requirements
Duration of examination: 20 minutes

Scales and Arpeggios (Memory is required.)

Play one from each of these four categories:

1. Three-octave major scale in Db, D, Eb, E, F, or G. Slur two sets of triplet eighths or eight sixteenths, followed by tonic and subdominant arpeggios, slurring one set of triplet eighths.
2. Three-octave melodic or harmonic minor scale in c, d, e, f, or g. Slur two sets of triplet eighths or eight sixteenths, followed by the tonic and subdominant arpeggios, slurring triplet eighths.
3. Two-octave fully diminished arpeggio starting on C, D or E. Slur two eighths.
4. One-octave major scale in C or D in double-stopped sixths. Slur two eighths.

Metronome: quarter note = 66-76

Use whole bows on all.

Etude (Memory is not required.)

One etude, or two etudes totaling a minimum of one page.

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

- One fast concerto movement;
- One short contrasting piece; and
- One movement from a Bach Cello Suite (Nos. 2-6)

A substantial piece (such as the Schumann: Adagio and Allegro or Hummel: Fantasy) may be substituted for the concerto movement. Either the concerto movement or the short piece should be from an era other than the Baroque.

The three pieces should represent three different composers.

Piano accompaniment is required for 18th C. and later sonatas.

Sight Reading

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

Range might exceed two octaves

Major and minor keys up to three sharps and three flats

Meters of 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 6/8, 3/8, 9/8, cut time

Note values might include dotted eighth and sixteenth in one beat, as well as eighth and sixteenth rests

Some ties might be used

Slurs of two, three, four, or six notes

Shifting to second or third position

Recommended Goals for Level 8

Confidence and accuracy in shifting, including double stops

Developing varied speeds and widths of vibrato

More speed and agility in bowing

Wider dynamic range

More power, projection and beauty of tone

Increasing conviction and musical maturity in a range of styles

Examples of Music Suitable for Level 8

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

Barber: Scales for Advanced Violists*

Flesch: Scale System*

Mogill: Scale Studies*

Mogill: Advanced Scale Studies*

Etudes and Technical Studies

Bruni: 25 Studies*
Fiorillo: 31 Selected Studies
Fuchs: 15 Characteristic Studies*
Hofmann: Melodic Double Stop Studies*
Hoffmeister: 12 Studies
Kimber: Six Etude-Caprices*
Kreutzer: 42 Etudes*
Mazas: Etudes Brilliantes, Op. 36, Book 2*
Palaschko: 12 Studies, Op. 55*
Palaschko: 20 Studies, Op. 36
Sitt: Practical Viola School*

Pieces

Bach: Three Sonatas for Viola da Gamba
Bach: Cello Suites, Nos. 2-6
“J.C. Bach”/Casadesus: Concerto in c minor, mvmt. 3
Beethoven: Notturmo, Op. 42
Benda: Concerto in F major
Bloch: Meditation and Processional
Bridge: Two Pieces (Masters)
Bruch: Romanze
Clarke: Morpheus
Cutter: A Love Story
Debussy: Beau Soir
Ellenwood: and the world, opening (Gems)
Forsyth: Concerto in g minor
Glazunov: Elegy
Glinka: Sonata in d minor
Hoffmeister: Concerto in B-flat major (Schott)
Hoffmeister: Concerto in D major, mvmts. 2 & 3
Hovhaness: Chahagir
Hovhaness: Talin Concerto
Hummel: Fantasy, Op. 94
Kimber: 3 Armenian Impressions
Milhaud: Sonate #1, mvmt. 2
Mozart/Fuchs: Concerto No. 3 in C, K. 216
Pleyel: Concerto in D major
Rachmaninoff: Vocalise
Ravel: Pièce en Forme de Habañera
Scholes: Diwali Aukilani II (from Viola Music by Women, Intermediate 2 ed. Cooper)

Schumann: Adagio and Allegro, Op. 70

A. Stamitz: Concerto in B-flat major (Schott)

K. Stamitz/Meyer: Concerto in D major, Op. 1 (International), mvmts. 2 & 3

Vaughan Williams: Suite for Viola, Prelude & Christmas Dance (Group I #1 & 3) and Ballad (Group II #1)

Zelter: Concerto in E-flat major

Suggested teaching material not appropriate for use in the exam:

Harvey: Octave Scale Studies for the Viola, Book 1*

Harvey: Octaves for the Viola, Book 1*

Kember & Smith: Viola Sight-Reading 2*

Kievman: Practicing the Viola Mentally and Physically*

Schradieck: School of Viola Technique, Book 1*

Sevčík: School of Bowing, Op. 2*

Sevčík: Preparatory Studies in Double-Stopping, Op. 9*

Sevčík: Shifting the Position, Op. 8*

Starer: Rhythmic Training*

Wreede: Violaerobics*