



MUSIC ZONE  
Where Music Begins

VIOLIN AND VIOLA SYLLABUS

# HANDBOOK

FOUNDATION – PROFESSIONAL

Copyright © 2023, Music Zone, LLC. All rights reserved.

For all works contained herein: Unauthorised copying, arranging, recording, Internet posting, public performance, or other distribution of this printed or recorded material in this publication is prohibited

Visit Music Zone Online at [www.music-zone.org](http://www.music-zone.org)



# EXPLANATION OF THE LEVELS

## (Violin and Viola Lessons)

### BEGINNER (LEVEL 1-2):

The first day to the end of Sassmannshaus book 2, Suzuki book 2, ABRSM grade 2 or equivalent repertoire.

End of Beginner requirements:

Note reading in an appropriate clef, parts of the violin mastered, 2-octave scales, entry into shifting, broken thirds

### INTERMEDIATE (LEVEL 3-5):

Sassmannshaus books 3-5, Suzuki Book 3-Suzuki Book 6 or ABRSM grade 3-6 or equivalent repertoire.

End of Intermediate requirements:

Shifting (I-V position), Vibrato, with a slur and separate patterns, All 3-octave scales with a slur and separate patterns, arpeggios, 7th chords, octaves, sixths, thirds, and harmonics double stops, etc., Kreutzer etudes 1-20 and/ or Maza's etudes 1-18.

## ADVANCED (LEVEL 6-8):

Repertoire to be advised with the teacher.

End of Advanced requirements:

All Kreutzer and/or Mazas completed. Mastery of all before mentioned scale items and bow techniques from the previous etudes.

Example Repertoire:

Violin-Bruch Concerto, Beethoven Spring Sonata, Bach E major Partita Viola- Stamitz Concerto, Bloch Suite Hebraique, Bach G major Cello Suite #6

## PROFESSIONAL (LEVEL 9-10):

Highest level standard repertoire from the Violin and Viola catalog.

Example Repertoire:

Violin- Sibelius Concerto, Ysäye Ballade, any Paganini Caprice Viola- Rozsa Concerto, Hindemith Op. 31 No. 4, advanced Campagnoli or Paganini Caprice #9



# GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

If your child is under the age of 10, or they are a beginner to intermediate student, you (parent or guardian) should dedicate the time necessary to practice with your child, unless explicitly stated by the instructors.

Parental involvement in the early stages of learning is key to producing consistent and precise progress. We highly encourage all of our parents to read "Development from Age Zero" and/or "Nurtured by Love" by Dr. Shinichi Suzuki.

- Students are to practice a minimum of time that is suggested in the syllabus. More practice, if done productively, is always encouraged. If those expectations are not met, we do not guarantee otherwise expected progress. For any music preparation outside of the studio requirements, such as orchestra auditions, competitions, music festivals, etc., students should be aware of a potential slow down in their progression of technique and repertoire.
- Students are to listen to their assigned repertoire and supplement other high-quality classical performances (YouTube, Classical King FM, live performances, etc.) weekly. Listening and watching are as important as doing.
- Students are to bring all required materials, including a notebook for the instructor (and student if of age) to take notes, to every lesson.
- Parents of younger or beginner to intermediate students should and are encouraged to take videos and notes during lessons.
- All students in the Academy and Pro programs are expected to participate in the December and June recitals.

- Students at the Intermediate, Advanced, and Professional levels will be encouraged to give solo recitals, and participate in competitions and other public performances.
- We know that every child is capable of learning to a high degree, however, results will vary on consistency, dedication, aptitude, talent, and the quality of the prior teacher (if studied previously).

## GROOMING

- Nails are to be kept very short with very little white on both hands. This is necessary to ensure proper finger posture on both the instrument and the bow.
- Students should be appropriately clean and tidy for their lesson.
- Students with long hair should have an appropriate hair tie or clips to keep hair off the shoulder area and face.

## MATERIALS

- A complete list of materials required will be given in the first lesson. Advanced to Professional repertoire will be discussed in the lessons and may be purchased online at various websites.
- All students need (1) A notebook, either composition or spiral notebook for note-taking by the instructor or the student. (2) All assigned books and repertoire brought to every lesson.



# CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

## Violin and Viola Lesson Programs of Study

### 1. CASUAL

For students who prefer a minimal commitment and/or for students who are not full-time members of the Music Zone.

Requirements:

Weekly lessons (1 or 2 lessons in a group with 2-3 students)

Lessons are following the plan with which is no mandatory practicing at home requirements.

### 2. ACADEMY

Requirements:

At least 1 lesson per week to an unlimited amount weekly. (group or solo)

Participation in studio classes and recitals, minimum of 1 piano rehearsal mandatory before every recital.

Expectations:

Students are required to practice at least 3 days a week for at least the length suggested in the syllabus. We strongly suggest practicing every day for the best results.

If expectations are not met, we do not guarantee otherwise expected progress. For any music preparation outside of the studio requirements, such as orchestra auditions, competitions, music festivals, etc., students should be aware of a potential slow down in their progression of technique and/or repertoire. Teachers reserve the right to move students from the Academy to the Casual program if a student is repeatedly unprepared for lessons. Such a move can occur anytime during the year.

### 3. PRO

#### Requirements:

Lessons (solo once or twice weekly), participation in all studio classes and recitals, possible feature performances playing solo and/or chamber with the teacher, four or eight 45 min lessons, and a minimum of 2 theory lessons monthly.

For the best advancement of every student, we suggest curating a weekly program that includes theory. The teacher will determine all the details regarding theoretical education. Every student will have an individual approach that suits their needs.

#### Expectations:

Required practice time 4 days a week (preferably every day), at least the time of the lesson.

### MUSIC THEORY AND AURAL SKILLS

Music theory is of the utmost importance. Fully understanding what one sees in the music and intellectually processing the information drastically improves the quality of lessons, and exponentially increases the rate at which one can progress. This class combines music theory with aural skills (ear training/solfeggio), providing a long-term knowledge of fundamentals such as rhythm, pitch, keys, harmonies, chords, musical terminology, and so much more. These classes are optional but highly recommended.





# ACTIVITIES

## MUSICAL BEGINNINGS

Ages 5 and up to 7 years old. Musical beginnings is a specially designed program for our youngest students. This program is introducing basic musical instruments. Students are learning how to recognize music patterns, sounds, instruments, and rhythm. Every month students have a chance to meet and try different instruments: drums, keyboard, singing, and ukulele. Students are expected to perform twice during the period of six months.

## CHOIR

Students Choir is one of many group classes that we are offering to our new and existing students. In this class, students are encouraged to work together as a team. They are learning basic technical elements of singing, breathing, rhythm, and musical elements.

## STUDENTS BAND

The class is designed for our advanced students. It provides an opportunity for students to experience and learn different skills competing to their instrument classes. Playing in the band improves their musical knowledge and skills to work as a team. Students are playing an instrument that they are learning in the school intending to perform 3 songs together with others who are at the same or similar skill level. The band teacher is supporting their wish in terms of the program that the band is going to perform, teaches them how to act as a band, chose the band leader, organizes rehearsals, and works on their musical and stage performance.

## STRING ENSEMBLE

Group class organized for all string players (violin, viola, cello). In this class, students are given a role based on their skill level. The teacher is managing pieces that the ensemble is playing, as well as rehearsals. This class offers all string students to be part of the team and learn essential musical skills.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SYLLABUS

Do I need to have my instrument?

Having your instrument is a benefit because you are getting used to your instrument and you can increase the speed of your progress by practicing at home.

Not having an instrument should not stop you from playing music. We are here to help with the instruments that we have in our school.

How long is it going to take to learn how to play?

Each instrument has a different learning speed. Depending on the level you want to achieve there is a minimum of hours to spend.

Foundation level to level 3 will take you up to 200 hours. With level 3 finished you will be able to read and play and understand the basic concept of music.

Do I need to cut my nails?

Yes. Each instrument is different but about this topic speak directly to your teacher.

Is there an exam and certification?

We have 9 levels of examination. Your teacher is going to let you know when you are ready for the exam. Exams are not necessary but they are important for progress.

Do I need to practice?

Depending on the level on which you are there is recommended amount of practice hours. If you don't want to practice you can still progress but with a lower speed.

How many levels to become a professional?

To become professional you need to pass level 8 or to take some other examination out of our school (ABRSM, Trinity, etc.)

Can I play any song?

About this topic speak to your teacher. Based on the level of the song and the level on which you are you can do or not do the song.

The example you are at level 1 and you want to do a song that is level 5. In this case, it will be impossible to do it. However, you can ask a teacher if there is a simplified version which is in your skill level. If you are at level 1 and you want to do a song that is on level 2 you will probably be able to do it.



## ABOUT OUR EXAMS (ASSESSMENTS)

Our assessments are an effective and reliable way to motivate learners. They provide carefully structured syllabus requirements, progressive goals to work towards, an objective evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses in a learner's performance, and recognition for achievement.

Preparing for and taking these exams encourages learners to develop their skills, knowledge, and understanding, something that provides a foundation for future musical learning and activities of all kinds.

Each student can qualify for the exam if he/she meets the required minimum and the teacher approves it.

Exams will be arranged in the Hall or designated zone in the school (Piano, guitar, strings, vocals, etc. zone).

Exams will be arranged at the time of the student's lesson. Every exam will have a minimum of 2 examiners.

The music zone will provide a Certificate of completion for every grade, signed by the teacher and examiner.

Every student can ask to skip one or two grades, if decide too, they will need to pass the assessment with their teacher.

