

HIERARCHICAL RUBRIC FOR DEVELOPING TECHNICAL SKILL ON THE VIOLIN

Techniques

Level 1: Beginner

Bow Hold
Violin hold and stance
Detaché bow stroke on all strings at varying speeds
Change right arm level appropriately when crossing strings
Whole bow strokes
Clear tone throughout bow stroke
Left Hand Placement
Finger Action - lifting and dropping from the base knuckles
Change left arm position appropriately when playing on different strings
Finger spacing patterns: 2-3
Play 1-octave Scales D, A, G (lowest octave)
Play varied rhythmic patterns on all strings with straight bow and clear tone
Staccato
Retakes
Accents
Hooked bowing (two staccato notes)
Slurs
Bow Distribution: Subdivide bow stroke into halves, thirds, fourths
Slurred Bowings while Crossing Strings
Finger Spacing Pattern 1-2
Play 1-octave C scale and arpeggio, 2-octave G scale and arpeggio
Accurate intonation on ring tones
Make dynamic contrasts (forte, piano)

Level 2: Advanced Beginner

Finger Independence in case using blocked fingerings
Maintain clear tone with string crossings
Coordinated finger and bow changes, including during string crossings
Appropriately distributes bow for different note values
Maintain straight bow strokes
**Exercises to develop Finger Motion*
Consistent accurate placement of low second finger
Proficient use of fourth finger
Finger spacing patterns: 3-4 and "all spaces"
Legato hooked bowing patterns (Louree or Portato)
Legato Bow Stroke
Manipulate both speed, pressure and placement to create gradations of loud and soft dynamics (mp, mf, ff, p, etc), crescendos and decrescendos
Accurate placements of high 3rd fingers
Fast fingers with separate bows
Fast fingers with slurred bows
Grace notes and simple trills
Hooked bowing patterns on faster note values (dotted eighth/sixteenth)
Triplet figures with separate bows
Accurate placements of 4th finger
Easily play varied bowing patterns
Sustained slow bow stroke
**Begin exercises for shifting and vibrato*
Spiccato
1-octave scales and arpeggios E, F; 2-octave scales and arpeggios A, Am, Bb, Gm,
Easily move in and out of different finger patterns
Accurate intonation with low placement of 1st fingers
Find and play natural harmonics

Level 3: Intermediate

Shift to and play in 3rd position
Two octave Scales and Arpeggios in keys E, Em, F, Fm, D, Dm, Eb, Bm
Double stops with one stopped note and one open string
Spiccato on eighth notes
Accurate intonation with low placement of low 3rd and 4th fingers
Firm intonation in 3rd position
collé stroke
Finger motion at the frog
Vibrato
Three note chords with open strings on the bottom
Double string crossings in quick tempo (e.g. E to D string)
Fourth finger extensions
Accurate intonation with tritone skips
Shift to and play in 2nd and 4th positions
Varied on and off the string bowing patterns (e.g. lifted staccato; slur followed by lifted or bounced note (Seitz Concerti)
Varied detaché strokes (brushed, accented, accentuated, super legato, martelé)
Play two Octave Scales E, F
Three Octave Scales and Arpeggios in G, Gm, Ab, A, Am, Bb,
Staccato on triplet figures
Accurate intonation with octaves (1st and 4th finger)

Level 4: Advanced Intermediate

Three and four note chords with two stopped strings and one or two open string
Clean Bow Placements
Isolated wrist motions for very fast detach, string crossings, and Sautillé
Sautillé
Varied spiccato styles from heavy brushed at frog to light, delicate in the middle
Shift to and play in 5th - 8th position
Three Octave Scales and Arpeggios in B, Bm, C, Cm, D, Dm, Abm, Bbm
Sophisticated Dynamic phrasing (e.g. graceful tapered endings) and using vibrato to add a variety of color to phrasing.
Three note chords (triple stops), all strings stopped
Four note chords (quadruple stops), all strings stopped
Double stops passages (e.g. Bach E major Gavotte and Rondeau)
artificial harmonics
Scales in Octaves
Scales in Thirds

Level 5: Advanced

Use of vibrato and all tonal devices (bow speed etc.) to create clear musical gestures that create a logical flow of tension and release
Play three octave major and minor scales and arpeggios in **all** major and minor keys
scales in tenths and harmonics
Mastery of bowing techniques: ricoché, up bow staccato,
Complex double stop and chordal passages
Accurate large distance shifts