

Rubric for Advancement

	Learning Stage 1	Learning Stage 2	Learning Stage 3	Polished Performance
Rhythm	Frequent rhythmic mistakes, consistent inaccurate note lengths	80% rhythms are played accurately, occasional inaccurate note lengths	No rhythmic errors, a few inaccurate note lengths	No rhythmic errors, playing consistently “in the pocket”
Intonation	Frequently missed notes, In tune about half the time	A few missed notes, intonation 70% correct (often spot on but consistently out of tune on certain pitches)	No missed notes, intonation 80% correct (usually spot on)	No missed notes, intonation 90% correct (spot on all the time)
Tempo	Can only play parts slowly and at varying tempi depending on difficulty	Can play all parts 70%-80% of performance tempo (ex. if 120 bpm is performance, can play at 84-96)	Can play all parts 80%-90% of performance tempo (ex: 120bpm performance tempo = 96-108)	Can play all parts at performance tempo
Cleanliness	Frequent scratchiness, articulations unclear or incorrect, frequently hits other strings, missed shifts, fingers often ill-prepared, finger action slow and ill-coordinated with bow	Occasional scratchiness, articulations are somewhat clear and well executed, sometimes hits other strings, shifts not always well timed and arrival note hit usually, fingers are well prepared 60%-70% of the time, finger action slow on some fingers and frequently poorly timed with bow changes	Some scratches, articulations mostly clear but not perfectly executed, rarely hits other strings, shifts are good but not always accurate, finger action well-timed most of the time.	Very few scratches, articulations clear and well-executed, no accidentally hitting other strings, well timed shifts, fingers are well-prepared, finger action quick when necessary and well timed with bow changes
Fluency	Frequent hesitations and “bobbles”	Several hesitations and “bobbles”	Few hesitations or “bobbles”, some parts memorized	No hesitations or “bobbles”, almost memorized
Tone	Poor negotiation of bow speed, pressure, and sounding point. Tone sounds feeble and doesn't project.	Healthy, ringing tone in the simpler passages and in middle of bow/Trouble producing good tone in harder and faster spots/ Frequently plays to close the fingerboard	Consistent healthy, ringing tone in any dynamic/occasionally makes inappropriate use of bow speed, pressure, and sounding point/ Occasionally plays too close to the fingerboard	Consistent healthy, ringing tone in any dynamic/ consistent appropriate use of bow speed, pressure, and sounding point
Expression	No dynamic contrast	Basic dynamic changes (ex: forte followed by piano echo)	Consistent use of dynamics employed on local levels (within phrases), sustained bows in lyrical sections, occasional interruptions in bow speed and pressure	Clear and logical musical intent and phrasing on both global and local levels, Tasteful dynamic contrasts, sustained bows in lyrical phrases (no unintended interruptions in bow speed and bow pressure)
Mental State	No confidence, always a struggle, more frustration than enjoyment	Feeling somewhat confident, but are still “struggling” in places/ Cannot enjoy playing because preoccupied with technique	Feeling mostly confident/playing feels easy but there are still a few spots that require concentration/ enjoying what's coming out of the violin	Feeling of confidence and ease, the fingers just know where to go/ you are listening to the music, not evaluating the performance/you're “getting into it”

Move on when you have:
Minimally, 3 checks in Stage 3
Ideally, 4 or 5 checks in Stage 3
Polished Playing: 1 or 2 check in Polished, 4 or 5 checks in Stage 3.