

ORCHESTRA GUIDELINES FOR VIOLINS

Cannon Valley Youth Orchestra

CVYO hosts three levels of orchestras. This resource sheet specifically is intended to give violin students, parents, and teachers a clear picture of playing levels to help them decide which orchestra to target when preparing for a placement audition.

It is also intended as a resource for choosing material to study. These suggestions are meant as guidelines, not as a comprehensive list of required material. This is simply a collection of tried and true repertoire that teachers and CVYO students have used over the years. Each student and teacher will have their own curriculum choices, and these may differ from this list.

HAYDN ORCHESTRA

Violin students entering Haydn orchestra should

Have a minimum of 1 year of note-reading experience

Play with an alternating high / low second finger

Be playing at the end of Essential Elements / Orchestra Expressions Vol. 1, Suzuki Book 1, Sassmannshaus Vol. 1, Royal Conservatory Method Level 1, or the equivalent

During their time in Haydn orchestra violin students should

Develop an even tone throughout the whole bow, study various rhythms and strokes in their appropriate placement in the bow, and become proficient in shaping basic dynamics

Study repertoire / etudes and major / minor scales in first position with alternating high / low placement of all 4 fingers in key signatures that range from at least 3 sharps to 2 flats

Begin shifting into 3rd position. Study scales / simple melodies in 3rd position

Balance the left hand to prepare for vibrato, and possibly begin vibrato studies

Study a variety of material that is generally graded at Level 2 such as:

Method books

Essential Elements / Orchestra Expressions Book 2, Suzuki Books 2-3, O'Connor Vol. 2, Sassmannshaus Vol. 2, Royal Conservatory Level 1 + 2

Supplemental repertoire

American Fiddle Method Vol. 1-2, Young Violinist's Repertoire (De Keyser) Vol. 1-3, Music by Black Composers Vol. 1, Solos for Young Violinists Vol. 1

Scales

Whistler's 1 Octave Scales, Barber's Scales for Young Violinists (green book)

Technique / Etude books

Rhythm Rhythm Revolution (Roeck), Melodic Etudes (Entazami) Vol. 1, Wohlfahrt Foundation Studies Vol. 1, Fiddle Magic (O'Reily)

MOZART ORCHESTRA

Violin students entering Mozart orchestra should

Have studied major / minor scales in 1 to 2 octaves with a minimum of 3 sharps to 2 flats, play with alternating high / low placement of all 4 fingers and play consistently in tune and in 1st position

Be a proficient note reader in 1st position

Use a whole bow with even tone and proficiently apply a variety of basic bowing patterns, rhythms, and basic dynamics that utilize different parts of the bow

Be able to shift in and out of 3rd position, play simple melodies / scales in 3rd position in tune, and be ready to begin or have started vibrato

Have studied a variety of material generally graded Level 2 (see list under Haydn orchestra), and audition with a solo at the end of this level that shows advancing proficiency in 1st position and preferably a student's emerging skills shifting into and playing in 3rd position

During their time in Mozart orchestra violin students should

Study scales in 2 octaves in a variety of keys and begin scale studies in 3 octaves

Continue to develop skills in 1st and 3rd positions, utilizing more complex bowing technique, rhythmic challenges, and changing key signatures / finger placements

Continue studying tone development, play with a balanced bow arm/well shaped bow hold, and learning a variety of bowing techniques

Study shifting techniques and work in positions 1-5, become proficient in vibrato, and develop a balanced left hand and violin hold

Study a variety of material that is generally graded Level 3-5 such as:

Method books

Essential Elements / Orchestra Expressions Book 3+, Suzuki Books 2-5, O'Connor Vol. 3-4, Sassmannshaus Vol. 3-4, Royal Conservatory Level 3-6

Supplemental repertoire

Young Violinist's Repertoire (De Keyser / Waterman) Vol. 3-4, Music by Black Composers Vol. 1, Solos for Young Violinists Vol. 1-2

Scales

Barber's Scales for Young Violinists (green book) + Advanced Violinists (blue book)

Technique / Etude books

Rhythm Rhythm Revolution (Roeck), Melodic Etudes Vol. 1-3 (Entazami), Wohlfahrt Foundation Studies Vol. 1-2, 36 Elementary + Progressive Etudes op. 20 (Kayser), Introducing the Positions Book 1 (Whistler), Easy Songs for Shifting in the first 5 positions (Kinnard), Shifting - 30 Progressive Studies for Violinists (Geringas), Melodic Double Stops Vol. 1 (Trott)

BACH ORCHESTRA

Violin students entering Bach orchestra should

Be proficient at note reading and playing in tune in positions 1-5, applying appropriate shifting strategies, be proficient in vibrato, be an independent learner

Have extensively studied 2 octave scales / arpeggios, 3 octave scales / arpeggios in at least 3 major and 3 minor keys

Apply a variety of bowing techniques and good tone to shaping a melodic line

Have studied a variety of material generally graded Level 3-5 (see list under Mozart orchestra)

Audition with a solo at a level that is the equivalent to the Bach Double, or any solo graded at Level 6 or above

During their time in Bach orchestra violin students should

Expand scale / arpeggio studies to all major / minor keys in 3 octaves

Continue to develop skills in 1st-5th positions, expanding studies into all positions

Study a variety of material that is generally graded Level 6+ such as:

Method books

Suzuki Books 6-8, Royal Conservatory Level 6-10, Solos for Young Violinists
Vol. 3-6, standard repertoire / concerto works

Scales

Barber's Scales for Advanced Violinists (blue), Flesch Scale Studies

Technique/Etude books

Melodic Etudes Vol. 3 (Entazami), 75 Melodic + Progressive Etudes Book 1 (Mazas),
Preparing for Kreutzer (Whistler), Shifting - 30 Progressive Studies for Violinists
(Geringas), Melodic Double Stops Vol. 1-2 (Trott), and beyond