

Course Content Document

C. Violin Instruction, Beginner.

The Violin Instruction, Beginner and Intermediate course is the first and second of the of 3 levels of instruction classes.

It is followed by a Violin Instruction, Advanced course. The material in each is a useful progression and sequence to the next, and teaches technique in a most useful order. Taking these in succession is intended.

The beginner class takes perhaps a year for students who practice regularly. Because we frequently have students at various levels of experience and developing skill, we often split the Violin Instruction, Beginner class into multiple groups to match students with similar skill level. The text for the class is - "A Practical Method for Violin, Nicholas Laoureux, Part 1 of 4", and additional materials are furnished by instructors.

In the first semester, the beginner course teaches how to play and sight read in the First Position, then easy songs, scales arpeggios, and many easy songs. In the process the student will automatically learn to sight read music, and absorb basic music theory. It introduces the basic playing skills: fingering the pitches with the left hand, correct basic bowing with the right hand, how to read the easiest notes on music sheets and accurately play those pitches, understanding and playing the different length notes and rests. Next the student learns more bowing techniques, playing in different keys and their scales, nicer songs, playing a part within a song which has multiple parts also playing. Last the student plays more complex songs, with increased speed and control of volume. In the second semester, Etudes (violin study exercises) are introduced to further develop sight reading and overall control and speed.

At the completion of the Violin Instruction Beginner course (typically two semesters) the student can sight read and play in easy groups, play duets and other pieces with other instruments including piano. The student has a great set of basic playing techniques. This is a super accomplishment. Playing is big fun and very satisfying. Please note that for this semester we will teach the Beginner and Intermediate courses as one - See the description of the Intermediate Course which follows.

But --- Wait, there's More!!!!

It is recommended to complete the full 3 courses of Violin Instruction.

The easy increases in difficulty, useful progression of techniques, and familiar program continue. Because the courses are a logical progression, only the easier and simpler techniques are in the beginner course. Recommend you complete the full 3 courses of violin instruction:

The Intermediate Class. This takes at least 2 semesters for students who practice regularly, and the range of pieces which will be playable by the student, and the groups that can be joined, and playing opportunities expand enormously with completion of the intermediate. This is because the simpler techniques are easily enhanced with more advanced versions. The student learns more advanced pieces, much more control, skill in the critical 3rd position, and introduction to the important 5th position, and speed from the additional playing. The text for the class is -" Introducing the Positions for Violin Volume I, Third and Fifth Positions", by Harvey S. Whistler, and additional materials are furnished by instructors.

At the completion of the Violin Instruction Intermediate, the student confidently plays with much more control, sight reads well, can play with and/or accompany other instruments well. The intermediate course teaches the third position with introduction to fifth position, more complex bowing, enhanced sight reading and increased speed and bow control, and essential shifting among positions. The student is ready for bigger roles in ensembles, music groups. Increased technical ability enables entry into community orchestras. This is even greater accomplishment. Playing is a blast, and can self- learn and play moderately difficult music well as needed.

But--- Wait, there's even More!!!

The Advanced Class. This takes at least 2 semesters for students who practice regularly, and the easy increases in difficulty, useful progression of techniques, and familiar program continue. The class begins with a review of the Third and fifth positions from the Intermediate Class. The Violin Instruction Advanced class is more things: a structured learning, fun group playing, and opportunity to players to bring in harder music from outside for group problem solving and playing. Technically, the jewel in the crown is the study of all the odd positions, followed by all the even positions. Exercises combining shifting among the positions solidify the student's confidence. The student learns to play concertos, really nice songs, pieces from many styles and periods. The students input ideas for songs and bring in songs, and request help with tougher outside pieces. The group format and continuing interesting pieces, review of the advanced techniques make this a class to continue to take for the fun of it! So, it also becomes a playing club for the advanced players. The player has real confidence in helping to shape the music in any group. Can confidently play first or second violin in community orchestras and other music groups. Can play almost any kind of music. Has the knowledge and can resolve complex playing pieces and learn these as needed. The text for the class is "Introducing the Positions for Violin Volume II, Second, Fourth, Sixth and Seventh Positions " by Harvey S. Whistler, and additional materials are furnished by the instructors.

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