

MUS 1520/1522
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Spring 2013

Violin/Viola (60 minutes)
Prof. Mary Findley
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Course Description

Private instrumental study with a rigorous balance of technical advancement, expansion of repertoire, and an integrated academic component. Students at this level should at a minimum:

1. Read treble clef fluently for violinists, both alto and treble clefs for violists.
2. Be able to decipher basic rhythmic combinations and rudimentary dynamics and articulations.
3. Have a fundamental knowledge of left and right hand positions

Course Objectives

Performance study in violin or viola includes individual instruction in technique, performance preparation and basic musicianship skills that will foster independent and self-motivated learners. Lesson content is individually determined, with repertoire selected to achieve development of technical and musical skills in each student. Technical and musical issues will be identified from the repertoire studied, and possible solutions, and strategies for finding solutions, will be devised. Students will be expected to make choices and decisions of both technical and interpretive import and to actively participate in their lessons by both playing and discussing various options and their merits.

1. Technique:

"Practice techniques: time management; how to create exercises to address specific technical challenges; counting drills; elementary theory; ear training.

"Bow technique: develop and/or enhance basic strokes for articulation, dynamic and rhythmic exploration of bow management and choreography to maximize tonal and interpretive impact.

"Left hand technique: improve accuracy of shifting within the lower positions of the instrument for security of intonation; develop speed and agility of the fingers.

2. Repertoire: play a variety of literature and styles, as assigned, with an understanding of the techniques and interpretive traditions associated with those styles.
3. Research/Writing: support reading and/or research as assigned.
4. Performance: all students may be required to participate in end-of-semester violin/viola workshop or studio recital; public performance may be encouraged for some students.
5. Concert attendance: students are required to attend 4 concerts, including both Yeskel concerts, and write a one-page summary/review of each concert, to be submitted by email or in hard copy by the last day of classes. These concerts may be at GW, the Kennedy Center, or anywhere else – they should feature professional performers or university students. Please include a copy of the program. Two of the concerts should include your instrument.

Expected Learning Outcomes

On completion of 1000 level study in violin or viola, students will be able to:

Musicianship:

- " Display and use practical musicianship skills in sight-reading
- " Display use of the breath to motivate phrasing

Performance:

- " Perform repertoire from at least 2 periods of music of 2 differing styles.
- " Perform repertoire that demonstrates sustained technical development.
- " Display secure and consistent basic string techniques:
 - *Effective bow usage for control of sound quality, dynamics and articulation
 - *Reliable intonation and shifting, with relatively seamless movement between registers
- " Use knowledge of period styles, musical affect, and performance practice to achieve a basic level of informed musical expression.

Critical Understanding:

- " Understand merits of interpretive and technical performance choices and support those choices in a statement or in response to questions at a performance exam.
- " Speak with a perceivable argument.

Attendance

- " Lessons per semester -- 13
- " The Department of music is not obligated to schedule make-up lessons for those missed due to student non-attendance (including illness, vacation, etc.). In the event of instructor cancellation, a make-up date will be scheduled. "If a student registers after the first (or second) scheduled lesson, that lesson (or lessons) will not be taught, nor count against the student's grade or attendance.
- " An instructor may substitute one instructor-led event for a lesson, such as a studio recital or workshop.
- " If you are unable to attend your lesson, please notify me on my home voicemail. Cancellations made by email will not be excused unless made 24 hours in advance. An excused absence will not be made up, but the absence will not affect the student's grade.
- When there are last minute issues, call me at home (202.337.7101) or in the studio (202.994.9036).

Grading

- " All students will be graded upon lesson attendance, preparation, and completion of supplementary assignments such as concert attendance. Attitude toward assignments and cooperation during lessons will be given significant weight in your grade. A grade will be given at each lesson beginning at the fifth lesson.
- " 100% of your grade is given by the instructor, based on the above criteria.
- " For students playing a performance exam for admission to 2000 level study, 100% of your grade is given by the instructor, based on the above criteria. Your exam at this juncture is only for advancement and receives no grade.

Lesson Protocol and Progress

Students are expected to attend all lessons, arriving on time. You should have at GW a device which provides a reliable tuning A, a working metronome, rosin, and mute. Bring a pencil to all lessons.

Only students who made truly excellent progress will receive A's. To earn an A in this studio, you must engage in the study of the violin or viola at both the technical and intellectual levels. Your success is directly related to the quantity and quality of your preparation each week, your willingness to experiment, take risks, and use your imagination to achieve the most expressive musical outcome possible. Students are expected to practice daily for a minimum time equivalent to their lesson length.

Resources

" Instrument storage lockers: email request for a violin or viola locker to band@gwu.edu and you will be walked through the process

" For locally obtained string supplies and sheet music:

Potter's Violins (MD)	301.652.7070
Dale Music (MD)	301.589.1459
Middle C Music (DC)	202.244.7326
Foxes Music (VA)	703.533.7393

" For questions about departmental requirements, majoring or minoring in Music, credit and curriculum issues: Schedule an appointment with a full-time Music faculty member, details on hours on the bulletin board outside the office. The earlier you seek guidance on a possible major or minor, the more likely the requirements can be integrated with your other studies.

" General assistance: Office personnel Susan Reed or Carey Stipe can help with anything.

" Gelman Library: Check out the collection of CDs and music. Listening is a wonderful way to improve your aural skills.

" You are in the middle of a very artistic city. The office has listings of concerts, with student discounts frequently available. Check the bulletin boards and office doors throughout the department for concert announcements. Most Smithsonian museums offer concert series, as does the Library of Congress.

" Most communication outside the studio is through your GW email account. Please plan on checking this account regularly and responding promptly.

" I am always available between lessons and you are welcome to email me or leave a voicemail at home anytime. I am also the coordinator of chamber music and will answer your questions about small ensembles.

" Prof. Lori Barnet lbarnet@gwu.edu is coordinator of string studies and will answer any questions under that heading.

Support for Students Outside the Classroom

Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202.994.8250, Academic Center 102, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information refer to <http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/>

The University Counseling Center (UCC) offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students' personal, social, career, and study skills problems. Services for students include crisis and emergency mental health consultations and confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals.

<http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/CounselingServices/AcademicSupportServices>