

American String Teachers Association



ASTA's Certificate Program for Strings provides students with an incremental means of achieving playing goals, motivating them to persevere and excel in their instrument studies.

The CPS offers eleven levels of graded curricula for all bowed string instruments (harp and guitar to come). Each level is defined by a set of technical and musical goals (for instance starting vibrato, third position, sense of style) and the corresponding study material.

Completion of each level is demonstrated at a performance exam in which the student plays scales, an etude, piece(s), and sight-reading. The student's success is then recognized by ASTA with the awarding of a Certificate of Achievement.

Teachers of all traditions find that the CPS complements and strengthens their programs.

Certificate Program for Strings

Benefits

- **The CPS Handbook** is an indispensable tool for setting up and running exams, as well as a curriculum resource for string teachers. Available online at www.astaweb.com.
- **The Performance Examinations** are annual, non-competitive, private playing exams designed to provide feedback on each student's playing. Students play before well-regarded teachers of like instruments who are trained as examiners.
- **The Certificate of Achievement** is granted by ASTA, an internationally recognized organization, after the successful completion of the examination. The work of the student and teacher is thus validated and parents receive outside reassurance that their child is getting a well-rounded education in string instrument playing.
- **The Rewards of Mutual Support** - Teachers and students participating in the CPS strive to achieve the same goals, receive feedback in their striving for fine teaching and playing, and find the same success.

The Performance Exam

- Teachers may choose any music for the exam that is comparable to music in the Curriculum Guide in the Handbook.
- At the exam, each selection is evaluated based on tone, intonation, technique, rhythm, musicality, memorization, and stage presence.
- After the exam, the evaluation forms are sent to the teacher to be discussed with the student.

Possible Exam Programs

Level 2 Cello- Scales and arpeggios, Grant- First Position Etudes, Bach-Krane: Bach for the Cello

Level 7 Viola- Scales and arpeggios, Fuchs: 15 Characteristic Studies, Bach: Cello Suites, one movement, Vanhal: Concerto in C, one fast movement

Level 10 Violin- Scales and arpeggios, Gavinies: 24 Etudes or Caprices, Bach: Solo Sonatas and Partitas, Copland: Hoe Down from Rodeo, Mendelssohn: Concerto in E Minor, one fast movement

Comments from Teachers

NJ: "The examiner was an ideal choice for my young students who need a positive setting to play their best."

MD: "My students all benefited greatly from the experience. Several said it should be mandatory for everyone!"

VA: "My students who participated greatly excelled, and they continue to be my best students."

For more information, go to:

www.astaweb.com/cps.htm or phone 703-273-2113 ext. 14.