

Audition Preparation Suggestions, BSYO Violas

(minimum playing level needed for each group, in addition to etude and sightreading)

Suzuki and Barbara Barber books cost between \$7 and \$20 (higher price includes CD). There is also public domain sheet music available free online. If you're having trouble finding a piece, please talk to Lara Moore or Carmen Gorak and we'll get music for you.

White Group Violas (level 2-3)

One-octave major scale in Bb, Eb, Ab, Db (lower octave), or A, OR

Two-octave major scale in C, D, Eb, F, or G (shifting or fixed position)

AND

One-octave melodic minor scale in C, G, or D starting on open string

Level 2: a solo showing use of all 4 fingers, with low 1, low 2, high 3; some slurs, e.g.:

- From Suzuki Viola Book 1: Bach Minuets or Gossec Gavotte
- Anything from Suzuki Viola Book 2
- "The Student Violist" Bach or Handel books, pieces near beginning
- From Barbara Barber "Solos for Young Violists" Book 1: first three pieces

Level 3: a solo showing use of position above 1st pos., staccato vs. legato, some vibrato, phrasing involving dynamics and ritard/accelerando, good intonation/rhythm, clear tone, e.g.:

- Anything from Suzuki Viola Book 3
- "Student Violist" Bach or Handel, harder pieces
- From Barbara Barber Book 1: "Sleeping Princess" through "Two Dances"

Blue Group Violas (ASTA level 4 and up)

at least: Two-octave major scale in Ab, A, Bb, Db, Eb, or E.

AND

Two-octave harmonic and/or melodic minor scale in C, G, or D.

(More difficult scales, such as 3-oct./ harder keys, will show more advanced ability)

A solo showing any/all of the following: ease of use of positions, some reading of treble clef, off-the-string bowing, lifts/retakes, vibrato, double stops, musical phrasing (dynamics, rubato), good intonation, rhythm, and tone, e.g.:

- Anything from Suzuki Viola Book 4 and up
- Barbara Barber Book 1: La Cinquaintaine through end of book
- Anything from Barbara Barber Book 2 and up
- Telemann Viola Concerto in G, Marcello Sonatas in Em, C, or G, Bach "Arioso", Vaughan Williams "Fantasia on Greensleeves", Faure "Après un reve", Bach cello suites, JC Bach (Casadesus) Concerto in C min., Handel (Casadesus) Concerto in B min., Hummel Fantasie

Blue Group Principal Viola: a movement from a standard concerto or sonata (e.g. Handel, Stamitz, Walton concertos; Brahms or Schubert sonata) or a comparable piece, and a contrasting movement from a Bach Cello Suite arranged for viola.