

Syllabus: Performance Studies in Viola, Fall 2006

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I. Preparation for Lessons

- A. Allow at least 30 minutes before lessons to warm up. This is very important as it 1) helps avoid injury and 2) helps you play your best, enabling you to pick up new ideas more quickly in your lesson.
- B. Please bring all music and etude books/materials to each lesson, whether or not they were specifically asked for the previous week. Also bring piano parts to your accompanied repertoire.
- C. Always prepare with memorization as one of your goals. This kind of preparation makes your practice infinitely more productive. Exceptions to this are sonatas with piano and other chamber music.
- D. Please bring a notebook and/or a minidisk/tape recorder to your lessons. The advantages of bringing a recorder are 1) you can retain more from your lesson than from a few written notes, 2) you can listen to your playing later, and 3) we are both freer from writing things down, giving us more time to work. If you choose to bring a notebook, please bring a pencil.
- E. You are welcome to ask questions at any time about your instrument upkeep and other equipment; however, it is your responsibility for its condition. This includes bow rehairing. Always carry with you rosin and an extra set of strings.
- F. Accompanist request forms are available in the School of Music office. It is your responsibility to arrange for your pianist. Show foresight: make sure your pianist is free at your lesson time. If not, you may trade lesson times with another student on a permanent basis. Trade in advance, in any case, for the weeks you need a pianist. You are responsible for rehearsing in depth with your pianist and giving him/her ample time to learn the part.
- G. Be sure to spend time studying your music away from your instrument. Listening to different interpretations of your piece, when recordings are available, can be very helpful. It is also a good idea to listen to other works by the same composer, especially those written around the same time as your piece, to get a sense of the composer's "language". It is important to study your scores in silence, as well, for both harmonic and formal analysis and for imaginative freedom.
- * **Practice - three** credits of study require a minimum of 21 hours weekly practice, **two** credits require at least 14 hours/week, and **one** credit requires 7 hours/week. Inadequate practice is obvious in lessons and will reduce your progress and your grade.

II. Repertoire

- A. Repertoire projects and goals will be discussed at the beginning of the year/semester. Your repertoire should represent a variety of styles and periods and should include many works from the standard repertoire. Monitor your progress, survey your repertoire periodically and focus on the biggest and most difficult tasks first. Your lesson will, in general, focus on what you worked on most.
- B. While your scale routine may or may not be a part of each lesson, you are responsible for your scales and for the creative evolution of your scale practice. Rich, natural sound production, good intonation, efficiency of muscle usage/ economy of motion should be foremost important.

III. Repertoire Class

Attendance is required for Repertoire Class, Mondays at 3:00 p.m. Once a month, the class will meet at 4:00 in the Organ Recital Hall with the other string studios; otherwise, we will meet in Rm. 224. Everyone will perform in Rep. Class periodically as pieces get polished. Rep. Class is a supportive environment and performance opportunity in which students give constructive comments after each other's performances. **Bring your instrument to all repertoire classes** as we may use some of this time for orchestra sectional work.

IV. Performance Requirements

These will vary from student to student. Full recitals are required for performance major seniors and half recitals for music education major seniors. Planning a degree recital this semester? If yes, sign up NOW in the office for a date as the calendar will fill up fast.

Each of you will have the opportunity to have a practice performance before juries and recitals. All students are advised to arrange performance opportunities before UNCG recitals – 1) Arts in the Atrium series at Cone Hospital 2) Wednesday Convocation 3) performance in your home community to name a few.

V. Physical Contact:

Normal studio instruction in Viola involves a certain amount of limited and neutral physical contact between the teacher and the student when dealing with such subjects as posture, use of hands/arms on the viola and the bow, tension, breathing, overall performance style, etc. It is the responsibility of the student who is in any way and at any time uncomfortable with this contact to immediately inform the teacher of that discomfort.

VI. Chamber Music

It is my hope that all of you will play chamber music in some form in as many semesters as possible. The experience of chamber music will challenge your imagination, your teaching skills, your creativity, your diplomacy, your musicianship, and a tremendous amount more. It can also create an irreplaceable spirit of fellowship that you will find nowhere else.

VII. Juries

At the end of each semester, you will perform selections of your semester repertoire for the faculty. This is a performance, so please prepare and dress accordingly.

You will be responsible for leaving two typed jury forms in my mailbox before noon on December 1, 2006.

Juries will take place on Tuesday, December 5th.

VIII. Attendance and Make-Up Lessons

All students are required to attend lessons and repertoire class every week. If you are ill, notify your teacher in advance of your lesson by phone or by email. If you cancel a lesson, a make-up may be scheduled at the discretion of the instructor. If the instructor is away from campus on UNCG related activities, lessons will be made up in a masterclass format. No more than two lessons per semester will be made up in this fashion. Lessons will be 50 minutes in length. This will allow you sufficient time to get to your next class and allow time to prepare for the next student.

All majors are required to attend every viola recital, every string studio recital, every string guest artist master class or recital, and every string faculty recital. Signed programs for each of these recitals will be turned in with other recital programs prior to juries. Absences will affect your grade; four absences in any combination of lessons, rep classes, and recitals may result in an "F" for the semester.

IX. Grades

Grades will be determined by the preparation and quality of lessons, performance in rep classes, jury performance, amount of practice time, attendance, etc.

The grade will break down in the following manner:

- 60% preparation and performance in lessons and rep classes
(you will receive a letter grade for each individual lesson)
- 15% scales, arpeggios and etudes projects
- 10% orchestral literature preparation
- 15% jury performance

If you check out and use a faculty owned or university owned viola or other property, note the following:

Failure to return faculty owned or university owned property used in conjunction with or related to this course in a timely manner will result in a grade of "INCOMPLETE" until such property is properly returned.

University Closings and Concerts

If the University is closed or if classes are cancelled, then any concerts/recitals scheduled during that period will automatically be cancelled as well. This is necessary for liability purposes. The Chancellor closes the University or cancels classes when she and her advisors deem that travel to/from/on the campus is hazardous.

* If you need to speak with me after hours, you can try to reach me at home until 9:30 p.m. - 288-2990. If you get my answering machine, please leave a message and will get back to you as soon as possible.