

Theory Requirements by Level

PREPARATORY LEVEL

Be able to recognize the following elements.

Tonality

1. Recognize a scale pattern (i.e. notes that move by step)
2. Know the difference between a step and skip
3. Violin: Identify first position notes on the upper two strings on the staff for A Major position
Viola: Identify first position notes on the upper two strings on the staff for D Major position
Cello: Identify first position notes on the upper two strings on the staff without extensions
4. Identify the primary clef for their instrument by name and sign (violin: treble, viola: alto, cello: bass)

Instrument

1. Know the names of the four strings
2. Identify the tip and the frog on a picture of a bow
3. Identify the strings, bridge and fingerboard on a picture of the instrument

Time and rhythm




1. Identify quarter and half notes and rests and know how many beats each one gets

Signs and terms

Accidentals: symbols placed before notes, usually for a note which is not in the key signature

flat sign		lowers a note by a half step
sharp sign		raises a note by a half step
natural sign		cancels out a flat or sharp



Bowing terms

down bow		move the bow toward the tip
up bow		move the bow toward the frog
legato		smooth, connected notes with no break in the sound
staccato		short, separate notes on the string

Dynamics: symbols or terms that indicate loud or soft

forte	<i>f</i>	loud
piano	<i>p</i>	soft

Other terms

half step		smallest distance between notes
whole step		two half steps
key signature		the group of sharps or flats placed to the right of the clef on a staff to identify the key
repeat sign		play the music inside the signs again
scale		pattern of notes that moves up and down by steps

Ear training

1. Melodic direction: determine if notes are going up or down
2. Rhythm: identify the difference between two rhythmic patterns, two measures in length, using quarter notes and half notes bowed on an open string
3. Dynamics: determine if a melody goes from loud to soft or soft to loud
4. Articulation: staccato and legato notes