

Cello Twinkle Graduation Twinkle Variations - rubric

1) focus and concentration

- the ability to maintain focus on the music and playing the cello for the length of a Twinkle variation

2) posture

- sit in rest position with feet still in rest position arms quiet, no wiggling with good focus and quiet mind listening to one complete Twinkle variation
- balanced body - in playing position, body sitting erect, balanced cello, quiet body and mind and good focus for the length of one Twinkle

3) bow hand - tone production

- soft curves in fingers with good sense of touching the bow
- thumb is curved and placed appropriately according to the teacher's instruction
- easy ability to balance the arm weight on the string maintaining a soft bow hold with curved fingers and curved thumb
- finds the "Twinkle tapes" and positions the bow parallel to the bridge
- starts each note with a clear articulation
- each note has a distinct ringing finish
- tone is clear and strong

4) left hand

- left hand touches cello neck gently
- hand turns easily keeping palm open and wrist straight
- fingers hang over strings ready to plop down
- fingers easily drop on to the fingerboard without squeezing
- fingers work independently always preceding bow
- thumb loosely in place according to teachers directions

5) musicianship

- awareness of where in the tune he/she is at any point
- ability to sing the tune in his/her head while playing it
- connection between inner singing and left hand preparation is beginning to develop
- secure subdivisions of all rhythms in 16ths, 8ths and triplets
- feeling of steady tempo/pulse
- beginning of a sense of the shape of phrases (rising and falling)
- understands the formal structure (sandwich)