

Cello Graduation Level 2

Breval Sonata (1st mov't) - Rubric

1) focus and concentration

- demonstrates clearly hearing notes outside the normal hand frame through exact intonation in extensions
- consistently attends to the shape of the phrase
- maintains focus on changing from duple to triplet bowing patterns

2) posture

- maintains posture and balance through increasingly complex technical issues
- demonstrates balanced body, free bow arm and tone in frequent and irregular string crossings

3) bow hand - tone

- bow arm swings from the shoulder in a relaxed and comfortable way producing a clear even tone
- demonstrates bow control in chord playing by maintaining clear even tone
- maintains balanced arm weight while moving from string to string in frequent string crossings
- demonstrates the ability to rapidly change from swinging the arm to allowing the wrist to detach from the arm in the faster triplet passages
- demonstrates ability to manage bow distribution in long down bows followed by a return to the frog for a short up bow

4) left hand

- demonstrates a balanced hand with soft thumb tip, firm base knuckles and a straight line from finger through wrist to elbow
- demonstrates finger control by preparing each note in the string crossing passages (fingers should work as if playing a double stop)
- demonstrates clear left hand finger action in trills - loose plopping and lifting action for clear trills
- maintains freedom in hand to reach extensions and especially extensions across strings
- demonstrates independent finger action from a loose left hand allowing 1 to reach back
- maintains absolute control of finger angle for exact intonation
- demonstrates complete balance and freedom in normal playing patterns within the hand frame
- demonstrates a developing vibrato and the flexibility and freedom of left hand preparatory to vibrato with a loose thumb tip and firm base knuckles
- demonstrates a free left hand in extensions and contractions and accurately reaches the augmented second and similar intervals

5) musicianship

- basic understanding of sonata allegro form and familiarity with the terms - exposition, development and recapitulation
- anticipates modulations to related keys other than the dominant
- demonstrates the ability to fit together with the accompaniment
- maintains well shaped phrases and especially phrase endings throughout the piece
- understands and demonstrates effective and accurate execution of ornaments
- demonstrates attention to detail in performing the varied dynamic contrasts in the music
- demonstrates attention to detail in performing the varied articulation patterns from legato to staccato to jumping of the bow in the 3 note up bow pattern