

ASTA Grading --

Included in our Solo & Ensemble listings!!

Many of the titles in the ASTA String Syllabus are denoted in this catalog using symbols corresponding to the grades. Look for the numerical symbol in front of each graded music title. Below is an explanation of how each is defined.

Grade ① Materials are designed to develop the most basic skills, those that produce a pure sound of correct pitch. The left hand usually remains in the first position with few alterations of finger placement. The keys of G, D, A and C are most commonly employed; most chromatic changes are made with the second or third finger. Simple rhythmic patterns are played with detached strokes or short slurs.

Grade ② All the notes of first position may be used but rapid changes of finger placement are avoided. Passages in third position are possible. Shifting is rare. More varied rhythmic patterns may include dotted notes and other irregular groupings. There is more emphasis on legato bowing and on dynamic changes. Longer bow strokes and slurs are common and may include slurred string crossings.

Grade ③ Repertoire and exercises at this level build fluency in shifting and playing in the first three positions, with some use of positions (violins up to 5th; violas up to 3rd; cello & tenor cleff up to 7th.) Students should have or be developing vibrato. Pieces require greater skill in string crossing, a variety of bow strokes including martele, and greater control of dynamics on both long and short bow strokes.

Grade ④ The first five positions are used freely; (cello includes thumb pos.) a few higher notes may be added. Double stops and chords appear more frequently. Hemiola and polyrhythm may be introduced. Passages may be written for various forms of spiccato. sautille and staccato bowings.

Grade ⑤ Left-hand skills require the ability to play in the higher positions on all four strings, to make large leaps and to execute extended passages in double stops. Music at this level demands greater control of sustained tones, long bow strokes, rapid detached and staccato strokes, and those bowings employed for special effects such as flautando, ponticello and col legno.

Grade ⑥ Once essential techniques have been mastered, a vast repertoire becomes accessible. The following list is intended to be representative of the variety and breadth of string literature, not definitive.

Publisher Codes

BD	Broude Bros.	GL	Galaxy Music	PR	Theodore Presser
BH	Boosey & Hawkes	GS	G. Schirmer	PS	Peer-Southern Music
BL	Belmont Music	GW	Great Works	PT	C. F. Peters
BM	Belwin-Mills	HL	Hal Leonard Corporation	RC	G. Ricordi
BR	Barenreiter Verlag	HN	G. Henle	SC	Schott Editions
BT	Breitkopf & Hartel	HU	Hug and Company	SK	Hans Sikorski Verlag
CF	Carl Fischer	IN	International Music	SM	N. Simrock
CH	Chester Music	KJ	Neil A. Kjos Music	SP	Supraphon
CV	Carus Verlag	KL	Kalmus Publications	ST	Southern Music Company - Texas
DB	Doblinger	KZ	Edition Kunzelmann	SZ	Suzuki Talent Education
DR	Durand and Cie	LM	Luck's Music Library	UE	Universal Editions
DV	Dover Publications	LT	Latham Music, Ltd.	VW	Viola World
EA	European American Music	LW	Ludwig Music	WB	Warner Brothers Publications
EC	E. C. Schirmer	MB	Mel Bay Publications	ZZ	Miscellaneous Publishers
EL	Edition Eulenberg	MM	Masters Music		
ES	Edition Eschig	MP	Musicians Publications		
FB	Faber Music	NV	Novello and Company		
FP	Fountain Park	OX	Oxford University Press		