

AMEB VIOLA LEVEL 2 - SERIES 2

Level 2 aims to develop a sense of identity and brings forward those aspects that are unique to the viola. A sense of independence from the other string instrument is created.

Below is a list of the works presented at the Zoom Teacher's Session on February 25, 2024. This list is not at all extensive, rather highlighting some works that I personally find are standouts.

LEVEL 2

- ✚ Makes the bridge between levels levels 1 and 3
- ✚ Differentiation from Level 1 – focus is on developing a deep and resonant viola tone and identity through repertoire selection and techniques designed for the instrument
- ✚ There is a large number of original works across all grades, with particular significant additions by women composers both in Australia and abroad.
- ✚ It is an updated syllabus that allows for great flexibility and to introduce students to new genres, styles and compositional techniques.
- ✚ Each list allows for different levels of difficulty to suit different student developmental needs and age differences.

There is great scope for different styles and musical interests in the manual list.

LIST A – UNACOMPANIED WORKS – NEW ADDITIONS TO THE SYLLABUS

Grades 5 to 8 various studies by American composer Michael Kimber which are fantastic, and I expect popular with students.

Grade 5

- ✚ Hans Sitt - study no 16 from the Practical Viola School: a beautiful melody developing tone, long legato bowing and expressive shifting.
- ✚ Neridah Oostenbroek – Danza Viola
- ✚ Jeremy Cohen – Chorito in F major (Stylistic etudes for solo viola)

Grade 6

- ✚ Andrea Keeble – A study in Black
- ✚ Mazas – Allegretto in C major No 16 (Op. 36 Book 1)

Grades 7

- ✚ Hans Sitt – Allegro moderato in F major No 17 from 26 etudes Op. 32
- ✚ Lillian Fuchs – Etudes no 1, 2 and 3 from 15 characteristic studies

Grade 8

- ✚ Campagnoli – Siciliano: Andante in A minor (Divertimento 1 Op. 18)
- ✚ Hans Sitt – Andate - Allegretto No 11 (15 etudes for viola Op. 116)

LIST B – BAROQUE AND CLASSICAL: INTERESTING NEW ADDITIONS TO THE SYLLABUS

Grade 5

- ✦ Hoffman – Sonatina in C major
- ✦ Hans Sitt – Album Leaves Op. 39 (no 4 or 5)

Grade 6

- ✦ Beatrice Mattei – Allegro (1st mov) from Sonata per Viola
- ✦ Vanhal – Allegro moderato (1st mov) from sonata in Eb Major (not to confuse with Sonata in Eb Major Op. 5 No 3)

Grade 8

- ✦ Bruni's viola sonata Op. 27 no 1 in C Major (1st mov)

LIST C – ROMANTIC INTERESTING NEW ADDITIONS TO THE SYLLABUS

Grade 5

- ✦ Blanche Blood's Barcarole - tone development
- ✦ Vierne's 2 pieces for viola and piano.

Grade 6

- ✦ Eric Coates' Ballad arranged by Lionel Tertis: develop long sense of phrasing and an even tone across the strings, as well as the use of expressive shifting
- ✦ Hans Sitt Barcarole or Reverie from 3 Morceaux Op. 75

Grade 7

- ✦ Joseph Ryelandt sonata for viola Op 73 (mov 1)
- ✦ Vieuxtemps – La Nuit

LIST D – POST-ROMANTIC, AUSTRALIAN AND ALTERNATIVE STYLES

Grade 5

- ✦ Luis Costa Sonatina Op 19 (mov 1)
- ✦ Florence Price - Adoration
- ✦ Sarah Hopkins – Journey to the East
- ✦ Kathy Bluff – Milonga de Navidad – good choice to introduce the Milonga
- ✦ Nadia Boulanger's No 2 from 3 pieces for viola: great to introduce French style and expression.

Grade 6

- ✦ Clare Strong - Frost Crystals.
- ✦ Michael Kimber's Vif from his concertino for Viola and Orchestra

Grade 7

- ✚ Louise Kerr's Toccata
- ✚ Nadia Boulanger's 3 pieces for viola, numbers 1 and 3
- ✚ Michael Patterson's viola concertino available from his website.

Grade 8

- ✚ Forsyth's Chanson Celtique, an original work that I don't think gets played enough, it is fantastic to explore the higher range of the C and G strings, develop tone and expression with that continuous vibrato. It is on the long side, so you would have to choose shorter pieces in the other lists not to make the exam program too long.
- ✚ Miriam Hyde's Sonata for Viola, a really good sonata perhaps a precursor to Rebecca Clarke or other works in that style.
- ✚ Edward Putz - Blues for Benny

CERTIFICATE OF PERFORMANCE

- Makes the link between Level 2 and Level 3
- Prepares students for Level 3 – thus is it aligned with level 3 - in terms of listed works
 - **List A.** Unaccompanied works – including studies
 - **List B.** Works accompanied by piano
 - **List C.** Works written for Viola Solo and Orchestra
- Asks students and teachers to think more of a Recital format:
 - Programming for a recital from an audience point of view, i.e. building well-rounded programs
 - Encourages playing more than 1 movement from works such as concertos or sonatas
- Encourages musical maturity, confidence, advanced aural awareness through technical assuredness
- Builds stamina
- Gives flexibility to students and teachers. To those finishing Level 2 and to those looking to continue there is wide variety style and technical requirements to allow flexibility but still require technical and musical maturity

LIST A. UNACCOMPANIED WORKS (INCLUDING STUDIES)

- ✚ Bach. Allemanda 4'30 and Giga 2'30 from the Partita in G minor BWV 1004
- ✚ Lillian Fuchs. Sonata Pastorale. Fantasia No 1 - 4'41
- ✚ Elisenda Fabregas (b.1955 Spanish/American). Danses de la Terre No 3 or 4 – great recital fillers
- ✚ 'A Mana' by Anne D'Almeida – lovely piece and accessible to all students, available through AVA publications

Australian

- ✚ Caroline Shaw (b. 1982 Australia). In Manus Tuas – requires vocalization from the violist
- ✚ Andrew Ford - In my solitude
- ✚ Variations on a theme by Jonathan Diamond in D minor by composers Andrea Keeble and Jonathan Diamond

Studies: Bruni and **Hoffmeister** are original works.

High-flyers: Pochon (1878-1959 Swiss). Passacaglia for Viola Solo 7'45

LIST B. WORKS WITH PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT

Classical and Romantic works

- ✚ **Brahms** Sonatensatz arranged for the viola
- ✚ **Hummel** (1778-1837). Viola Sonata Op. 5 No 3

Post-romantic

- ✚ **Frank Bridge** Pensiero and Allegro Appassionato H82 – which requires much musical maturity and virtuosity
- ✚ **Claire Scholes** (NZ). Diwali Aukilani - [Cooper, Cora, ed. Viola Music by Women: A Graded Anthology, Vol. 3, Intermediate 2 \(sleepypuppypress.com\)](#)
- ✚ Romance Op. 23 by American composer Amy Beach - transcribed for viola by violist Molly Wise.
- ✚ **York Bowen**. Melody for the C String Op. 51 No 2 or for the G string Op. 47 both good options to develop tone and requires confidence across all registers.

Australian: there is much to choose from, but I highlight **Kats-Chernin** still life, and a fantastic Sonata for Viola by composer **Meta Overman**.

LIST C. WORK WITH ORCHESTRAL ACCOMPANIMENT

- ✚ **Cecil Forsyth** (1870-1941 English) Viola Concerto movs 1 or 3
- ✚ **Michael Kimber**. Fantasia Hispania [Michael Kimber - Fantasia Hispana for viola and orchestra \(Murawski, Siwka, Concertino\) \(youtube.com\)](#)
- ✚ **Tibor Serly**. Rhapsody for Viola and Orchestra
- ✚ French composer **Andre Fleury's** Fantasia Op. 18 available through Schott

High-flyers

- ✚ **Joly Braga-Santos** Viola Concerto Op. 34 – 1st mov

Recital fillers

- ✚ **Elisenda Fabregas** (b.1955 Spanish/American). Danses de la Terre No 3 or 4 – great to fill in recital time – short pieces and quite fun to play
- ✚ **Falla** works in List B
- ✚ **Claire Scholes** (NZ). Diwali Aukilani that we heard today