

# String Area – Viola

## Sophomore Barrier Exam Requirements

### Procedures

- Requirements must be met to register for 4000 level applied lessons.
- Students who play a sophomore barrier exam must sign up for 20 minutes of jury time (two contiguous 10-minute slots).
- Transfer students must take the sophomore barrier exam at the end of their first semester at the University of Wyoming. Transfer students may not register for upper division credit until they have passed the sophomore barrier exam.
- If the student does not pass the sophomore barrier exam, he/she may continue lessons at the 3000 level, but may not register for lessons at the 4000 level.
- Students may attempt the sophomore barrier exam twice. A student who does not pass the exam after two attempts will no longer be considered a music major. Exceptions require the consent of the area coordinator and the department chair.

### Performance Requirements

- All major and melodic minor scales, three octaves, from memory.
- An etude and solo at the appropriate difficulty, as outlined below. Please note that the examples given are meant as a guide and are not exact requirements.
  - **B.A. and B.M.E.**
    - Etude at the level of Kayser Opus 36.
    - Solo at the level of Handel/Casadesus Concerto in B Minor, 1st movement.
  - **B.M.**
    - Etude at the level of Kreutzer, No. 8.
    - Solo at the level of Hofmeister Viola Concerto, 1st movement, memorized.
- In addition to the above requirements, a level of quality is expected that includes the following:
  - A characteristic, quality sound that includes the use of vibrato in all positions.
  - Accurate notes, rhythms, bowings and fingerings.
  - Appropriately correct technique: bow, left hand, shifting, vibrato, bow strokes, etc.
  - Consistently accurate intonation and pitch center.
  - An ability to adjust pitch to an accompanying instrument.
  - A musically appropriate and consistent tempo.
  - Musically expressive and stylistically appropriate playing.
  - For performance majors: a rigorous, professional performance standard in all areas.

### Grading

The sophomore barrier portion of the exam is pass-fail. A letter grade will be given to the solo work only, which will count as the jury grade for the semester.