

Bass Graduation Level 2

The Elephant - Saint Saens - Rubric

1) focus and concentration

- demonstrates clearly hearing the modulation in the middle section
- consistently attends to the shape of the phrase
- maintains focus on complex bowing patterns
- contrast in sound between A and B section

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
- maintains balanced arm weight while moving from string to string in frequent string crossings
- maintains the weight in the bow through the many retakes
- demonstrates ability to manage bow distribution
- demonstrates clear difference in articulations between staccato, detached notes and slurs

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 mastery of shifting from half position through fourth position often in quicker passages
- demonstrates independent finger action from a loose left hand
- maintains absolute control of finger angle for exact intonation
- demonstrates complete balance and freedom in normal playing patterns within the hand frame
- demonstrates developing ability in glissando

5) musicianship

- follows the formal structure of the piece
- hears chromatic movement in melody
- anticipates chromatic modulation
- demonstrates the ability to fit together with the accompaniment
- maintains well shaped phrases and especially phrase endings throughout the piece
- demonstrates attention to detail in performing the varied bowing patterns from legato to staccato
- demonstrates the ability to play with a full resonant forte and fortissimo sound

