

Viola Twinkle Graduation Skills for Twinkle Variations

1) focus and concentration

- the ability to maintain focus on the music and playing the violin for the length of a Twinkle variation

2) posture

- stand in rest position with feet still in rest position arms quiet, no wiggling with good focus and quiet mind listening to one complete Twinkle variation
- viola balance - feet still in playing position, body standing erect with viola balanced on shoulder and chin in chin rest with quiet body and mind and good focus for the length of one Twinkle

3) bow hand - tone production

- soft curves in fingers with good sense of touching the bow
- tip of pinky is well balanced on “top” of bow
- thumb is curved and placed appropriately according to the teacher’s instruction
- easy ability to hang the arm from the bow
- easy ability to balance the arm weight on the string maintaining a soft bow hold with curved fingers, flat knuckles and curved thumb
- finds the “Twinkle tapes” and positions the bow parallel to the bridge
- starts each note with a clear articulation
- each note has a distinct ringing finish
- tone is clear and strong

4) left hand

- left hand touches viola neck gently
- hand turns easily keeping palm open and wrist straight
- fingers hang over strings ready to plop down landing near thumb side of centre of finger tip
- fingers easily drop on to the fingerboard without squeezing
- fingers work independently always preceding bow
- thumb loosely in place approximately opposite the first finger

5) musicianship

- awareness of where in the tune he/she is at any point
- ability to sing the tune in his/her head while playing it
- connection between inner singing and left hand preparation is beginning to develop
- secure subdivisions of all rhythms in 16ths, 8ths and triplets
- feeling of steady tempo/pulse
- beginning of a sense of the shape of phrases (rising and falling)
- understands the formal structure (sandwich)