Viola Studio of Sharon Wei  
last revised September 2016

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Office Hours: by appointment MB 335

Course Description:  
This course involves the study of viola performance through one-on-one lessons, performance classes, and performances. Students will gain a comprehensive knowledge of the standard viola repertoire by studying and performing works in various styles, genres and by different composers. Progress will be evaluated during every lesson and performance class.

This document lists pertinent information for your viola studies. Please read it carefully. Also, it is your responsibility to know all the contents of the UWO Music Performance Handbook. You can find it online at


Performance classes will be held every Tuesday from 8:30am-10:00am in MB 254 and are mandatory. Each student must perform at least 2 times per semester.

Lessons  
Viola lessons begin the week of September 5th. Your lesson time will be emailed out to you in August. There are weekly lessons for all undergraduates. For 3rd and 4th year performance majors, the lessons are 90 minutes long. For all other undergraduates, the lessons are an hour long. Graduate students receive weekly lessons that are 60 minutes long. You will receive 12 lessons over the course of the term.

Cancelled/missed lessons policy: Any lessons that I cancel will be made up. You must call or email me 24 hours in advance to cancel a lesson. Lessons will not be made up unless they have been cancelled. If you cancel because you are sick and it is less than 24 hours before you lesson, call me at home (an email is not enough) before 10pm the evening before your scheduled lesson.

Preparation: I expect you to show up on time for your lessons. If you are more than ten minutes late for a lesson, that lesson will be forfeited. You must be warmed up at least 20 minutes before playing for a lesson. Please schedule your lesson time when you can be warmed up and early. Practicing is essential to your success in this course. Non-performance majors are expected to practice studio materials for a minimum of 2 hours daily and performance majors are expected to practice 3+ hours daily to cover all the material discussed in lessons. Please set up a schedule at the beginning of each semester to reserve consistent practice times.
Specific tasks will be assigned in preparation for your next lesson. Your mark will depend in part how you carry out those tasks.

Please bring the following to each lesson:
a separate, 3-ring binder with copies of the repertoire, studies and excerpts you play in the lesson. Please divide your repertoire neatly with tabs. For any repertoire that includes piano, please Xerox the piano score which should include the viola part.
Instructions for the first lesson: Please be prepared to discuss your goals for the semester. Goals include repertoire selection, recital repertoire, auditions, festival applications etc. Please bring a list of repertoire you have already worked on with previous teachers and your timetable of courses for the semester.

Course Materials
1. Kreutzer 42 studies for viola
2. Campagnoli 41 Caprices for viola
3. Carl Flesch scales for viola
4. Galamian scales for viola
5. Bach six cello suites arranged for viola (ricordi edition)
Other repertoire will be determined at your lessons.

Performance classes
Performance classes are every week on Tuesday from 8:30am-10:00am in MB 254. Please be sure you don’t have any conflict with other classes as you are obliged to attend this class as part of your lesson requirements. Everyone should be present at each class as it is a learning opportunity for those who play and for those who are commenting.

Each student must perform at least 2 times in a semester. We will discuss at your lesson when and what you will perform. If your repertoire requires a pianist you must bring one to the class you perform in.

It is advisable that you find a pianist during the first few weeks of school. This can be through the accompanying credit that pianists are enrolled in or through the list of pianists that the performance office provides.

Grading:
Please refer to the Grading section in your handbook:

Lessons are worth 25% of your overall grade in the course and will be determined as follows:

Attendance/Responsibility: /50
Preparation and Improvement: /50
The performance class grade is worth 10% of your overall grade in the course and will be determined as follows:

Attendance: /3
Minimum 2 performances: /4
Oral contribution: /3

Concert Attendance
All students enrolled in performance classes must attend a minimum of 12 concerts per academic year (excluding concerts and performances in which the student is participating). Each student will be given a concert attendance card which will be signed by professors at the end of the various concerts. This requirement will be factored in the performance class grade. There will be guest viola and chamber music masterclasses throughout the year. Please plan to attend the following:

- Thursday September 15th 12:30pm Ensemble Made in Canada Residency Concert
- Wednesday November 9th 3:30pm-5:30pm David Rose Masterclass
- Friday November 11th 2:30pm-4:30pm Nancy Dahn and Timothy Steeves Masterclass
- Sunday November 13th 3pm Faculty Chamber Music Concert
- Wednesday November 23rd 6pm Viola Studio Recital
- Thursday February 9th 6pm EMIC Concert Collaboration
- Friday February 10th 12:30pm EMIC Residency Concert
- Friday February 10th 2:30-4:30pm Chamber Music Masterclass
- Wednesday March 15th 6pm Viola Studio Recital

Letters of Recommendation
Letters of Recommendation are a privilege, not an entitlement. If you require a letter for an application, please request one at least 2 weeks in advance of the deadline. A request should be made in person so that we can discuss all the relevant information needed for the letter.

Required Materials
1) Metronome or suitable metronome app on smartphone
2) Personal recording device for recording lessons, practice and performances
3) Students must own original music for any repertoire they are working on

Notebook assignment
1) Repertoire analysis
2) Repertoire recording reviews
3) Practice journal

For each piece studied during the semester, please provide background information on the work. List in paragraph or point form information that would be relevant and interesting to an audience with no musical knowledge. Information could include points such as historical significance, translations of titles, challenges of the work, description of the movements. Be sure to cite all researched information using end notes. Use Grove or other library sources. No use of Wikipedia.
Please listen to at least 3 different professional recordings for each work you are studying. Recordings can be found in the music library, naxos catalogue or itunes. Youtube recordings are not acceptable. Write a review for each recording in your notebook. Be sure to include source information.

**Repertoire notes and recording reviews are due by Tuesday October 1st, 2016**

Your practice journal is an account of your personal practice sessions. Please summarize goals for the week, how you divided your practicing and the duration of your practice. Include thoughts on strengths and weaknesses that you are working on. Bring your notebook to every lesson.

**Statements required by the Senate:**

*Accommodation for Medical Illness*

Please see: [http://www.uwo.ca/arts/counselling/procedures/medical_accomodation.html](http://www.uwo.ca/arts/counselling/procedures/medical_accomodation.html)  
“in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student’s overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible to the Associate Dean.”

*Plagiarism*  
“All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism”

*Mental Health*  
“students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western [http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help