

Viola Studio of Sharon Wei

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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

<http://music.uwo.ca/departments/music-performance/handbook/index.html>

Performance classes are mandatory and each student must perform at least 2 times per semester.

Lessons

Viola lessons begin the week of September 11th. Your lesson time will be emailed out to you in August if you have completed the Google Form Lesson Scheduler. 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 50 min long. Graduate students receive weekly lessons that are 50 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 your lesson, email me 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-perfor-

mance 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.

Please email me pdfs of all the viola parts you are currently working on by September 30

Course Materials

1. Kreutzer 42 studies for viola
2. Campagnoli 41 Caprices for viola
3. Hermann Concert Studies
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

All Music Majors, 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. It will be especially important this academic

year as you will be asking pianists to record tracks which can be used for personal practice as well and recording assignments. You can find pianists in the area at this link:

<https://music.uwo.ca/departments/music-performance/MPS%20pdf/ProfessionalAccompanistsList.pdf>

Grading:

Please refer to the Grading section in your handbook:

<http://music.uwo.ca/departments/music-performance/handbook/index.html>

<https://music.uwo.ca/departments/music-performance/MPS%20pdf/lesson-requirements.pdf>

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 are encouraged to attend concerts. There will be guest viola and chamber music masterclasses throughout the year. Please plan to listen/attend the concerts which will be emailed to you.

Additionally, London is fortunate to have many other classical music series featuring world-class soloists and chamber musicians. Please be sure to check out what is happening! Here are some helpful links:

<http://aeolianhall.ca>

<https://www.londonsymphonia.ca>

<http://www.jefferyconcerts.com/>

Guest Masterclasses

There will be a number of guest masterclasses. Information will be emailed to you.

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
- 4) External microphone for online lessons
- 5) Joint Membership to the Canadian and American Viola Society (approx \$50/year)
<https://www.americanviolasociety.org/Join.php>

Practice Journal

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.

Annual String Instrument Care Workshop

All bowed string students registered or intending to register for lessons (including graduate and undergraduate majors and non-majors) are required to attend this annual workshop. All others are also welcome to attend. Information on instrument care, repair, and buying advice will be presented. Topics such as the history of instrument making may also be discussed. The date/time/location of this workshop will be emailed to you.

<https://music.uwo.ca/about/resources/string-bank.html>

Statements required by the Senate:

I. Mandated Notes:

i) **Course Prerequisites:** None

ii) **Grading scale:**

Undergraduate: A+=90-100%, A=80-89%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, D=50-59%, F=0-49%.

Graduate: A=80-100%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, F=0-59%.

iii) **Academic Consideration for Student Absence & Missing Work (≥10%):** Students are responsible for making up any missed classes or assignments as soon as possible. The University

recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. Academic Consideration provides students with consistent, fair, and pedagogically appropriate consideration, without compromising the academic integrity of the course or program, when they have been unable to complete some component of a course due to short-term extenuating circumstances. Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions (physical or mental) that may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities are directed to seek Academic Accommodation through Accessible Education ([Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)).

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the end of the period of absence covered, to the Academic Counselling unit or Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210), of the student's Home Faculty together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the academic consideration being requested. Students are directed to read the Senate Policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness at the following website for further details regarding various requirements and procedures for the supporting documentation: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration.pdf

Whenever possible, students who require academic consideration should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

v) **Academic Offences:** Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism, which is considered a major academic offence. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as found at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

vi) **Mental Health & Wellness:** Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to the Health and Wellness at Western page (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or to go to the Wellness Education Centre located in UCC room 76. **Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in UC11 or to click on the green "I Need Help Now" button on the Health and Wellness page above.**

vii) **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students work with Accessible Education Western (AEW, formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

viii) **Religious Accommodation:** Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays (other than statutory holidays), and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. The Diversity Calendar from the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion provides information on multifaith, multicultural and diversity related holidays

and observances and links to resources for more information. <https://www.edi.uwo.ca/resources/2816-2023-Diversity-Calendar-PDF.pdf>

ix) **Electronic Devices in Classrooms:** The in-class use of electronic devices (other than for instructor-approved in-class uses) is expressly prohibited. Students found guilty of disrupting the class with electronic devices will be asked to leave the class and may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

x) **Plagiarism Detection Software Usage:** 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. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).

xi) **Contingency Plan:** In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online at the discretion of the course instructor.

xii) **Recording of Online Activities: (in the event that the course moves online)**

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.

xiii) **Online Etiquette:** Some components of this course may involve synchronous online interactions. To ensure the best experience for both you and your classmates, please observe the following general considerations of “netiquette”:

- Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
- Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are discussing.
- Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment.

Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of “Zoom-bombing” a class, or of other serious online offenses, may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

Gender-Based and Sexual Violence: Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through

these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence, either recently or in the past, you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca or call 519 661-3568.