

Cello Standards: Scales

C Major
B# Major

IV III II I

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D# Major
D Major

IV III II I

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E# Major
E Major

IV III II I

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F# Major
F Major

IV III II I

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G# Major
A Major

IV III II I

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B# Major
B Major

IV III II I

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PARTS OF THE DIAGRAM:

- Each fingerboard diagram is labeled with the name of the Scale. Each scale finger pattern is transposable by shifting up/down half steps.
- VI III II I represents the strings C G D A with A being the highest “1” string. These symbols are frequently used in repertoire to denote which string the note is to be played on. The VI III II I is ordered in this particular way so the diagram can be printed and laid on the fingerboard.
- _____ represents the nut of the cello
- 4 vertical lines represent the four strings of the cello
- Dots on the vertical lines represent each chromatic note from the nut to the end of the fingerboard
- Numbers to the left of the diagram are used as a quick reference that indicate the chromatic interval (5 = fourth, 7 = fifth, 12 = octave, 24 = 2nd octave)
- Circles with numbers represent the fingers used.

OBJECTIVES:

- Practice good shifting habits
- Practice with drones to comprehend resonating intonation
- Right Hand - Production of a relaxed tone, weight of the arm and elbow, hand is relaxed and engaged not gripping and tight, keeping the connection of sound from note to note through smooth legato bow changes
- Left Hand - round fingers especially 4th finger, elbow to knuckle flat plane alignment, back of hand parallel to finger board, opening hand for extension positions, positional fingering (fingers hover over to-be-played notes), proper shifting habits

INTONATING:

- Resonating voice in the body of the instrument
- Connection with the bow to the string
- Relaxed, engaged right hand
- Initial sound production of notes
- Bow speed
- Weight/Pressure in
- Bow placement in reference to the fingerboard and bridge (LANES)
- Connecting notes together
- Connected String Crossings
- Accurate pitch frequency (Hz) in the left hand in relation to the tonic
- Vibrato (not used in scales and arpeggios)

BOWINGS:

- No repeating note at the top of the scale
- One note per bow (whole notes)
- Two notes per bow (half notes)
- Four notes per bow (quarter notes)
- Eight notes per bow (Eighth notes)
- Sixteen notes per bow (sixteenth notes)