

**Contra Costa Music Guild
Certificate of Artistic Achievement**

Level	Min. Age	Description	Requirements	Memorization	Points
A	4	Ability to play a simple tune on their instrument	One solo selection	No	Selection A - 100 points
B	5	Ability to play a simple tune on their instrument	One solo selection	No	Selection A - 100 points
1	6	Can play their selection confidently and with expression. Showing a love of the instrument and learning it.	One solo selection	No	Selection A - 100 points
2	7	Improvement on knowledge of instrument and basic dynamics and phrase markings.	One solo selection, one scale	No	Selection A - 90 points, Scale 10 points
3	8	Shows improvement and the ability to play contrasting styles or moods.	Up to two solo selections, two scales	No	Selection A - 45 points, Selection B - 45 points, Scales 10 points
4	9	Improvement in moving around the instrument and exploring its full range. Beginnings of virtuoso technique.	Up to two solo selections, two scales	Extra merit	Selection A - 45 points, Selection B - 45 points, Scales 10 points
5	10	Improvement in technical ability as well as in musical ability. Able to phrase well, and play with expression and dynamics.	Up to two solo selections, two scales	Extra merit	Selection A - 45 points, Selection B - 45 points, Scales 10 points

6	11	Virtuoso technique is improving, as well as expression and musicality. Showing personality and their own style in the selections.	Up to three solo selections, two scales	Extra merit	Selection A - 30 points, Selection B - 30 points, Selection C - 30 points, Scales 10 points
7	12	Phrasing, expression and dynamics are all improving. Ability to play at the desired tempo accurately and with confidence. More improvement on finding their own style and voice.	Up to three solo selections, two scales	Extra merit	Selection A - 30 points, Selection B - 30 points, Selection C - 30 points, Scales 10 points
8	13	More virtuosic elements added to their playing. Expression, phrasing and dynamics are all improving. Strong signs of their individual musical personality are showing.	Up to three solo selections, two scales	Extra merit	Selection A - 30 points, Selection B - 30 points, Selection C - 30 points, Scales 10 points
9	14	Technique is more solid and the student is able to play expressively and have the instrument reflect their ideas on phrasing and dynamics. The student is able to feel more comfortable with the instrument and it is becoming an extension of their personality.	Up to three solo selections, two scales	Extra merit	Selection A - 30 points, Selection B - 30 points, Selection C - 30 points, Scales 10 points
10	15	Solid technique is being built by the student, and they are able to play with clear intonation, phrasing and dynamics. Technique is used to make the music come alive and also to express the personality and artistry of the student.	Up to three solo selections, two scales	Extra merit	Selection A - 30 points, Selection B - 30 points, Selection C - 30 points, Scales 10 points
11	16	More building on technique and artistry, with the student feeling more able to use the instrument to express their musical and artistic ideas. Presentation more polished and assured, with confidence in their own ideas on the music and how to express it.	Up to four solo selections, four scales	Extra merit	Selection A - 23 points, Selection B - 23 points, Selection C - 22 points, Selection D - 22 points, Scales - 10 points
12	17	Can play more complex pieces with good phrasing and good presentation. Knows their instrument thoroughly and has elements of virtuosity and style in their playing. Freedom with the instrument to have it express their musical artistry.	Up to four solo selections, four scales	Extra merit	Selection A - 23 points, Selection B - 23 points, Selection C - 22 points, Selection D - 22 points, Scales - 10 points
Adult	18+	Ability on the instrument is demonstrated, and is appropriate for the length of time the adult has been studying the instrument. Musical ideas are well presented and expressive playing is achieved. The personality and style of the artist comes through.	Two to four solo selections, two to four scales	Extra merit	See above levels to determine points