Many of the titles in the ASTA String Syllabus are denoted in this catalog using symbols corresponding to the grades. Look for the numerical symbol in front of each graded music title. Below is an explanation of how each is defined.

Grade X Materials are designed to develop the most basic skills, those that produce a pure sound of correct pitch. The left hand usually remains in the first position with few alterations of finger placement. The keys of G, D, A and C are most commonly employed; most chromatic changes are made with the second or third finger. Simple rhythmic patterns are played with detached strokes or short slurs.

Grade Y All the notes of first position may be used but rapid changes of finger placement are avoided. Passages in third position are possible. Shifting is rare. More varied rhythmic patterns may include dotted notes and other irregular groupings. There is more emphasis on legato bowing and on dynamic changes. Longer bow strokes and slurs are common and may include slurred string crossings.

Grade Z Repertoire and exercises at this level build fluency in shifting and playing in the first three positions, with some use of positions (violins up to 5th; violas up to 3rd; cello & tenor clef up to 7th.) Students should have or be developing vibrato. Pieces require greater skill in string crossing, a variety of bow strokes including martele, and greater control of dynamics on both long and short bow strokes.

Grade Left-hand skills require the ability to play in the higher postions on all four strings, to make large leaps and to execute extended passages in double stops. Music at this level demands greater control of sustained tones, long bow strokes, rapid detached and staccato strokes, and those bowings employed for special effects such as flautando, ponticello and col legno.

Grade Once essential techniques have been mastered, a vast repertoire becomes accessible. The following list is intended to be representative of the variety and breadth of string literature, not definitive.

Edited by David Littrell  
# E42025 $39.99

This follows the popular ASTA String Syllabus, Vol. One: 2003 Edition, which has been ASTA’s top seller and most requested publication for the past five years. The new version was carefully and thoroughly updated and revised by David Littrell, ASTA past president. Members will also appreciate that new material was added for Alternative Styles. 140 pages.