

Achievement in Music Examinations (AIM)

VIOLIN

Illinois State Violin Exams

On-Line only in 2020-2021

What are the benefits of taking AIM examinations?

These exams enhance musicianship, develop performance confidence, and **make a significant difference in college application process and employment search.** Now that **many universities have phased out standardized tests,** more focus is placed on the students with extensive and relevant extracurricular activities, **especially music.** The same is true of the employers. They know that music training is demanding, time consuming and requires highly developed cognitive and analytical skills, as well as long term planning. These are valuable skills for demanding college programs or employment.

AIM exams are demanding and require daily instrument practice and theory study. The goal is for students to have a positive experience and feel rewarded for their dedication and diligent work. Students receive a certificate for successful completion of the theory and the performance exams. Students can start from any level they are able to pass successfully and can do 2 levels per year with longer lessons and sufficient practice.

Lesson Requirements

Due to the extensive and complex nature of violin AIM exams, they are prepared in individual lessons only. **Individual lesson requirements per level: 1-4 = 30 min lesson; 5 and up = 45 min lesson. Combining multiple levels: there will be a special mandatory lesson length requirement decided on the level combined.** Regular tuition rates apply.

Deadlines

Please inform your teacher about your intention to take the exam as soon as possible. Early preparation is the key to good scores. Signup deadlines are usually in early spring. NMA will send e-mails to all violin students to let them know when the sign up starts.

Violin Exam Dates for academic year 2020-2021:

Sunday, May 2, 2021.

Are there any age limitations?

There is no age limit for violin AIM exams.

Who are the NMA teachers participating in AIM exam preparation?

Individual violin lessons: Mr. Chris Castillo.

How are the exams structured?

AIM examinations are divided by level and content. There are specific technique, theory, and repertoire requirements for each level. Both the theory portion and the performance portion of the exam are done on the same day. Please consult your teacher about the exam level which would be most appropriate for your child.

Where are the AIM violin examinations held?

The exam is held at a location in our area, decided by AIM Violin Chair. You will receive the exam time and location information from your teacher about a week before the exam.

Who adjudicates the examinations?

Members of Music Teacher National Association in our area are the adjudicators at AIM examinations. They are experienced teachers and adjudicators.

Are there any extra fees for AIM examinations and materials?

Yes, for levels 1-2, there is a participation fee of \$25 per student per exam, and this fee covers both the theory and the performance portion of the exam. For levels 3-10, there is a \$20 fee for theory portion of the exam, and \$20 for the performance portion of the exam. The fees are due at registration, payable in check cash. Payment by credit cards include an additional \$3 processing fee. There is an additional cost for the books and students will be able to purchase them through NMA.

How do I register?

You will be registering with your teacher directly. NMA facilitates the organization of this program, but an individual teacher needs to be a member of MTNA in order to enter the students into the AIM exams.

Please let us know if we can provide further clarifications.

*Talk with your teacher at your earliest convenience to set everything up and order the materials.
The sooner you sign up the greater the chance of the student's success at the examinations.*