

# Stereotypes



**Album:** *Stereotypes*  
**Released:** 2015  
**Genre:** Hip Hop/Classical Crossover  
**Written by:** Wilner Baptiste, Kevin Marcus Sylvester, Leo Boland and Marco Antonio Rodriguez Diaz Jr.

'Stereotypes' is a song by American hip hop duo Black Violin, and features as the first track on their 2015 album of the same name. Written by musicians Kevin Sylvester (violin) and Wilner Baptiste (viola), the piece is a violin duet fusing classical music with hip hop influences. As avid string players, Black Violin like to challenge the stereotypes of classical music and the musicians behind it, showing that not only can genres like hip hop and classical be merged together, but that also the creators behind it can be from all walks of life.

Black Violin achieved recognition at the 2004 Billboard Music Awards where they performed alongside singer Alicia Keys. Since then, they have released four albums, with their most recent album *Give Thanks* released in 2020.

## Performance Notes



This song gives you the chance to show off a beautiful *legato* sound for the first eight bars and then a very energised and active bowing style for the rest of the song. Starting on an up-bow can be tricky so make sure you have your bow placed on the string between the middle and tip. Try to keep the bow parallel to the bridge with a constant point of contact through the introduction, so your sound is crystal clear. Also, make sure you move exactly in time with the piano part. From bar 9 to the end, you need to be familiar with the other duet part so that your entries are precise. The bow stroke is very *staccato*, so aim for a bite between bow hair and string each time. Use your right-hand index finger to control this and don't move the bow too far. You want to try to arrive on a down-bow at bar 39 for the semibreves where you can use full bows, and return to near the heel for the last two quavers.

## Audio Access

Audio for this book can be accessed via the **QR code** on the right (*requires a compatible smartphone or tablet*) or by using the **URL and download code** shown on page 5.



# Stereotypes

By Wilner Baptiste, Kevin Marcus Sylvester,  
Leo Boland and Marco Antonio Rodriguez Diaz Jr.

Black Violin

Hip hop/Classical Crossover ♩ = 80

3

6

♩ = 80

9

13

17

21

RSL Classical Violin | Grade 1

# Technical Exercises

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There are three groups of technical exercises at Grade 1:

- Group A: Scales
- Group B: Arpeggios
- Group C: Technical Studies

For groups A and B, the examiner will request a selection from each group to be performed. For group C, you may choose **one** technical study to perform from the three listed in the grade book.

## Group A: Scales

**All scales** must be played:

- Unaccompanied (recommended minimum tempo: ♩=50)
- Ascending and descending across the number of octaves as shown for each example

### Major and minor scales:

- Must be played with separate bows, **or** slurred with two quavers to a bow (**examiner choice** - the examiner will state which with each requested scale).
- Can be played with 'even notes' (quavers) **or** 'long tonic' rhythms. Scales are shown with 'long tonic' for illustrative purposes only (**candidate choice** - see page 6 for further information).

### Major and minor scales

G major, two octaves



D major, one octave



A major, one octave



E natural minor, one octave



# Sight Reading

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In the exam, you have a choice between either a Sight Reading test or an Improvisation & Interpretation test. The examiner will ask you which one you wish to choose before commencing. Once you have decided you cannot change your mind.

In the sight reading test, the examiner will give you a four-bar example in the key of G major or D major, to be played unaccompanied. You will first be given 90 seconds to practise. After the practise time, the examiner will ask you to commence the test.

While the assessed part of the test is not played to a metronome click, you may ask to hear the minimum tempo on a metronome at the start of, or throughout your practice time. Additionally, you may ask to hear a few seconds of the tempo on a metronome before the assessed part of the test begins.

## Sight Reading | Example 1

Moderato ♩ = 84

*mf*

Please note: The tests shown are examples: The examiner will give you a different version in the exam.

## Sight Reading | Example 2

Moderato ♩ = 84

*f*

Please note: The tests shown are examples: The examiner will give you a different version in the exam.