

# ASTA's Certificate of Advancement Program

ASTA National Conference 2018, Atlanta, GA

## What is ASTACAP?

- It is a pedagogical program designed to motivate private students and their teachers to achieve excellence.
- The program comes with an 11-tiered curriculum guide (syllabus) consisting of scales, etudes/technical studies, and repertoire for violin, viola, cello, double bass, harp, guitar.

## ASTACAP is NOT . . .

- . . . a competition! Students who prepare for CAP exams see and understand their own progress from year to year and are inspired to improve.
- . . . an examination of the teacher! . . . but it does help ensure that students receive well-rounded instruction (both technical and musical).

## Who does it serve?

- Private studio teachers use the goals provided by ASTACAP to encourage their students to study with more purpose.
- Students . . . at any level! Foundation (absolute beginners) → Level 10 (college level)
- Experienced examiners on each instrument listen to students perform at annual examinations set up in various cities by the state chapters.
- The examiners then provide written comments and grades for: *intonation, tone, posture, right hand, left hand, expression, rhythm, vibrato, memory, style, sight reading.*
- An “online” version of ASTACAP exists to serve those who live in areas where in-person exams are not available.

## What are some other benefits?

- Parents recognize that their child is studying with a teacher who respects outside input, and that ASTACAP exposes students to a larger music community.
- Students feel encouraged by feedback from an outside source.
- Students who pass the exam gain confidence as well as recognition from a national organization.
- ASTACAP provides a national standard for musical achievement -- one that is recognized when participating students apply to universities, music schools, youth orchestras, and summer camps.
- The ASTA national office awards a “Certificate of Achievement” to every student with successful exam results.

The **ASTACAP Handbook** with all the details and syllabi is available for free to all ASTA members in good standing at [www.astastrings.org](http://www.astastrings.org) under “Teaching Resources.”