

# ASTA

## Certificate Advancement Program

### A Non-Competitive Examination System

The ASTA Certificate Advancement Program (ASTACAP) is a comprehensive, non-competitive, series of exams for violin, viola, cello, bass and harp students that covers scales, sight-reading, etudes and solos; with 11 levels, Foundation through 10, for which students are given a ribbon on passing each level. Students can participate in an exam to be awarded a grade or for comments only. Entrance may be at any level and skipping levels forwards or backwards is allowed. Levels may be repeated.

At press time, information for 2017-2018 was not yet available. We expect teachers will be able to submit materials for their students on-line in January, April and June, to be reviewed by an accredited adjudicator. Or you can set up your own in-person event.

#### What is ASTACAP?

Having established robust pedagogy and student learning benefits over 15 years of live examinations, we want to be sure the examination process (adjudication) is available to all ASTA members and

their students. This is the purpose of the Online Examinations. The non-competitive philosophy, skill based goals, and flexible curriculum and repertoire are the center of the ASTACAP program. This is consistent no matter how one takes the examination.

Parents love this event because they see their student is progressing along a planned curriculum. Students love it because they get comments and an opportunity to play their pieces one more time. The approval and encouragement from the judge means a lot to most of them. Teachers love the

event because students usually practice more carefully than they might have otherwise, and they pay more attention to etudes and scales than ever before. Working on sight-reading often adds a new dimension to lessons.

Get more information, including the ASTACAP Handbook and a helpful flyer to introduce ASTACAP to your private studio or school sign in at [www.astastrings.org](http://www.astastrings.org), and then choose -> Teaching Resources -> ASTACAP.

