

CELTIC COLLEGE

SKILL LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS

These descriptions are a guide only. Different instructors may interpret them in different ways and may adapt aspects to suit the needs of the students in their classes. However, we hope that these descriptions help students to choose classes that are best suited to where they are in their musical journeys.*

Introductory (Intro.)

Aka the “absolute beginner,” intro classes are geared to students who have just picked up their instruments. Students may be completely new to music or may have some understanding of the basics from previous study of a different instrument. Although largely unfamiliar with them so far, students are able to learn basic tunes, chords, fingerings, rhythms, and/or strumming patterns when taught slowly.

Beginner (Beg.)

Beginner students understand the basic techniques of their instrument but are still working to become fully comfortable with them. They know basic chords/fingerings/strumming patterns/rhythms/etc. but have not yet learned more complicated ones. They are able to learn or play simple tunes or accompaniment at a slower pace. When learning by ear, beginner students learn one phrase at a time and need to repeat it a few times for practice before moving on to the next phrase.

Intermediate (Int.)

Intermediate students are familiar with basic techniques/chords/fingerings/etc. of their instrument and are reasonably comfortable with more complicated structures. They have good control when playing and are able to play at a moderate speed. Intermediate students are fairly comfortable sightreading or learning by ear with some repetition and practice in class. They are able to start exploring more advanced techniques and tunes/accompaniment, and to begin honing their style and expression when playing.

Advanced (Adv.)

Advanced students are comfortable with their instrument, with good technical skills and a good grasp of chord structures/tune types/other core concepts as applicable. Advanced students are well able to play at speed and can learn by ear or sightreading with less in-class practice. They are prepared and able to delve into more complex, theoretical, or technically demanding aspects of an instrument or style.

*We have geared these descriptions towards music classes, but the same concepts of level of familiarity can apply to dance and craft classes.

If you have any questions about skill levels or which classes might be best for you, please contact the Celtic Office.