

VIBRATO BASIS

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Basic Principles of Vibrato

- Start early!
- Arm vs. wrist/hand
 - Either is good
 - Encourage hand, but allow whatever comes most naturally
- Instrument placement, angle and support
- Flexible joints: thumb, base knuckle, 1st joint in the finger (square/flat)
- Left hand set-up
 - hand height
 - thumb placement
 - thumb height
- Left hand and arm balance
- Flat fingers/tall fingers
 - Finger pad
 - Finger tip
- Finger ‘pressure’ – almost none
 - Light fingers – levitate
 - Feel levitating ‘upward,’ not pressure downward
- Direction of the impulse
 - Back – toward the pegs
 - Forward – toward the body
- Amplitude/speed
- Use it – don’t wait for it to be perfect

Beginning exercises

- Waving: in rest position; in playing position, without and with the bow
- Vibrating on the body of the instrument: in rest position; in playing position, without and with
- Vibrate between the strings
- Top taps

- Peg knocks
- Measured oscillations: 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. “wiggles per bow”
- Multiple oscillations per impulse: 1, 2, 3, 4, etc
- Vibrato ‘bursts’
- Vibrato crescendos – diminuendos
- Finger ‘drops’
 - Vibrato starts when the finger impacts the string
 - Energy, weight, effort dissipate
- Watch your vibrato in a mirror
- Video record yourself