

Teaching the Violin/Viola by อนุญัตน์ บั้งเส็ง

1, vibrato is one of the most important basic techniques which adds richness to the tone. Laying a good groundwork at the early stage when one starts learning violin is crucial. In order to play vibrato well, one needs to work on alleviate the tension on his/her arm and finger, start with sliding fingers on the fingerboard with big motion and eventually 'glue' the finger at a point and vibrate with the proper tempo. It's a collaboration between forearm, wrist and finger and needs a lot practice to perform a effortless vibrato.

2, correct intonations. Intonation control is one of the biggest difference between string instrument and keyboards. Students need to learn how to recognize when a sound is in tune or out of tune and make adjustment accordingly. To achieve that, we put tapes on their fingerboard at first to help them find the correct pitch, when they are getting familiar what the correct position for each finger is, the tapes can be removed. Note that some note has different version depend on what scale it is in, such as high-low 2nd finger, students also need to memorize the different between and major and minor scale.

3, different bow strokes and the coordination between right hand and left hand. We've covered a lot of basic bow stroke in this course, such as detache, martele, slur, pizzicato, etc. Each bow stroke has its unique trait and requires correct weight balance on the bow and pressure control on the right hand fingers as well as the precise timing of push/pull the bow. Managing playing different bow patterns will enlarge the student's repertoire and also involves more difficult right-left hand coordination. For the right hand side, student can use open string or scales to first focus on playing smooth bow stroke and for the left hand side, student can use martele to get to the right intonation then add both hands together to practice the coordination.