



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Mastering Your Vibrato

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What is Vibrato?

- Slight pulsation or waver in sound that results in a variation of pitch
- Vibrato functions as an expressive tool.

Goals

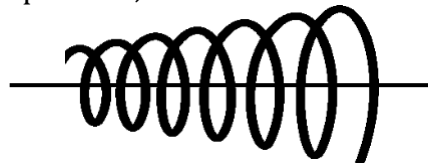
- To sound natural and integrated within the core sound of the flute.
- To use when needed, not necessarily all the time.
 - Stress notes
 - Shimmer notes
 - Keep forward motion on long notes

Production

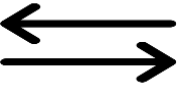
- Cool off soup - HoooHoooHooo
- Fog a mirror - Hahhahhah
- Spinning baseball or baseball pitching machine

Styles

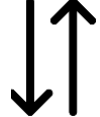
- Determined by Speed and Depth around horizontal line
 - Depth controlled by placement in mouth
 - Deep = back of mouth
 - Shallow = front of mouth
- Usually has 3 to 6 pulses per beat, with occasions moving outside of that range



Speed

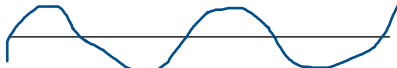
Slow  Fast

Depth

Shallow  Deep

Slow & Shallow 

Fast & Shallow 

Slow & Deep 

Fast & Deep 

Vibrato exercises

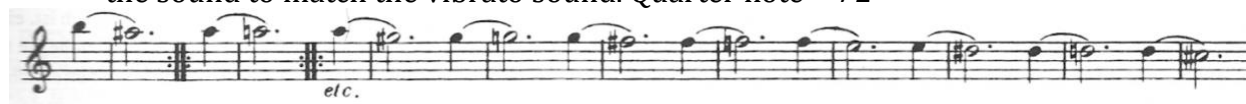
In order of beginning to advance (always use a metronome)

Beginning Pulsing Exercise

- Pick a scale, set metronome at 60 bpm, play one pitch per bar
 - Use one of the "Production" methods above to do the following
 - Pulses per beat up & down the scale- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1

Half-Step Pulsing Exercise

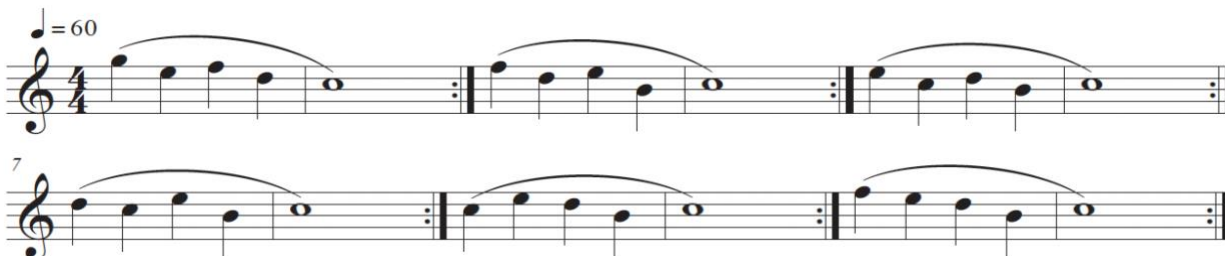
- Perform with vibrato 3-4 pulses/beat on 1x, on repeat play straight tone and fill out the sound to match the vibrato sound. Quarter note = 72



Moyse, Marcel, *De La Sonorité*, Alphonse Leduc: Paris, p. 8.

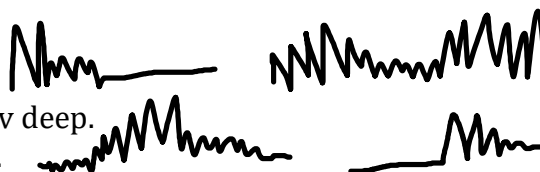
Amy Porter/Samuel Baron Vibrato Exercise

- First time play non-vibrato
- Second time pulse each note mixing 3, 4, 5, 6 pulses



Emily Beynon Vibrato Exercise

- Exercise to start and stop vibrato on a note.
- Remember placement in mouth for shallow v deep.
- Use the following patterns on each measure.



Incorporating Vibrato into Melodies

- Play with straight tone
- Incorporate vibrato one note at a time until all notes have vibrato.

Andante ♩ = 80

