Mastering Your Vibrato
Dr. Sophia Tegart, Assistant Professor of Flute
sophiat@wsu.edu

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

![Diagram of vibrato styles](image)
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

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.