

Vibrato Readiness

1. Excellent violin / viola hold.
2. Hand-frame fully developed, with fingers on the inside-corners.
3. Two – point contact.
4. Lighten weight of finger on string.
5. Use of independent fingers.
6. Vibrato motion should be parallel to the strings (ear to E-string peg).
7. Distal joint (first joint) flexibility, relaxed thenar (thumb) muscle, wrist motion.
8. Vibrate on selected long notes first (Book 2 & 3).
9. Model vibrato from the very beginning.
10. Listen (not watch) to evaluate students' vibrato abilities.

Many teachers choose to begin working on vibrato somewhere around the middle of Book 2, once intonation is secure and the hand is set—yet preparation for vibrato starts at the very beginning. Once specific vibrato exercises are introduced, it is important that they are heard in every lesson and are assigned to every practice.

The number one readiness for vibrato development is an overwhelming desire to do so on the part of the student!