

Session 2.5 Violin Forum
Monday 9 July 2018

Welcome and Introduction - Zoe van Drunen

Part Play, A New Chamber Music App – Philip Aird

- partplay.co.uk
- Play along with a collection of chamber music pieces recorded by a professional string quartet.
- Can filter out/in each of the instruments. For each player, there is a mute button and solo button.
- Can loop sections of the piece using the grey box above the start button.
- Can slow the playback by 20%.
- Players interviewed to find out how they approached their part.
- Players filmed from different angles to look at various aspects of posture/technique.
- Music in PDF form also on the website (for pieces that are out of copyright).
- There are approximately 60 pieces available at the moment, with more to come.
- The pieces are mostly more advanced pieces at the present time, with more elementary pieces to come.
- Not compatible with iPod or iPhone at the present time.

“Technique, the Superfood of Music” – Loreta Fin

- Sometimes it is difficult to get students to practice technical work.
- Techniques = the skills needed to play the game. Theory = the rules of music.
- If we can memorize what we are doing and simplify it, it will be much easier to do.
- Finger patterns. 4 basic finger patterns (M, L, H, O). M, L, and H finger patterns all fit within the ‘rock’n’roll’ perfect 4th finger pattern.
- Finger pattern charts available in *Fingerboard Geography* by Barbara Barber.
- One octave scales:
 - Commencing on open strings use M pattern.
 - Commencing 3rd finger use L pattern.
 - Commencing 1st finger use H pattern.
 - Commencing 2nd finger use O pattern.
- Diminished 7th circle:
 - Open, low 2, low 4, normal 1, normal 3, low 1, low 3.
 - Change starting point in the circle according to commencing note.
- Thirds:
 - Can learn in 6 exercises rather than 25 studies.
 - Repeat exercises without stopping to correct, but rather correct as you repeat.
 - Spider walks. 1 and 3. 2 and 4.
- Galamian scales in one position.
- Key signatures:
 - Sharp keys are the open strings ascending - G major 1 sharp, D major 2 sharps, A major 3 sharps, and E major 4 sharps.

- Flat keys are first finger descending: F major 1 flat, B flat major 2 flats, E flat major 3 flats, A flat major 4 flats.
- Access resources at Loreta's website wilfinmusic.com.au Password: WILFIN.

Rosin – Does it Really Make a Difference? - Andrew Baker

- Personalize rosin to assist with creating a specific sound (just you would do with strings).
- Resin is what comes out of the tree. Rosin is what you get after resin is distilled.
- Rosin sound and response variables:
 - (1) Attack (the strength of the initial grab on the string).
 - (2) Traction (the amount of grip in sustained bowing).
 - (3) Texture (the feel of the rosin on the string).
 - (4) Clarity (the clarity of articulation).
- Influence of the colour of rosin is not true in all circumstances.
- Main considerations for rosin choice:
 - Do I want it to enhance the qualities of my violin? Or,
 - Do I want the rosin to compensate for the qualities of my violin?
- Other considerations for rosin choice:
 - How much attack do I want?
 - How do I want it to feel across the string?
- Delegate question. Is it possible to blend the different Leatherwood Bespoke rosins together? Yes, as Leatherwood Bespoke rosins are the same ingredients in different proportions.
- Delegate question. How do you clean rosin off the bow? Basic cleaning – use a dry cleaning cloth to rub off as much of the rosin as possible. Complete cleaning – use acetone to clean the bow hair (N.B., acetone doesn't destroy bow varnish, but it will destroy violin varnish).
- Delegate question. Do you use Australian resin? Leatherwood Bespoke Rosin uses Australian resin mixed with resin from different countries to give diversity of sound.
- Delegate comment. Leatherwood Bespoke Rosin is fresh – made to order.

Ideas for Teaching Adult Beginners – Margaret Schlink

- 3 strands:
 - Individual lessons.
 - Group lessons.
 - Ensemble.
- Learning as an adult is quite challenging. Adult beginners generally know what they want and they want it fast.
- Prior knowledge is really helpful.
- Flexibility and relaxation is a big challenge (and is perhaps more psychological than physical).
- Some adults beginners can be very self-critical.
- Some adult beginners want to know all of the theory before playing.
- Social/group learning:
 - Group interaction.
 - Peer learning.

- Ensemble skills.
- Mixed levels.
- Heuristic learning.
- Less individual focus.
- Repertoire:
 - Sometimes favourite repertoire for younger students may not be as suitable for adult students.
 - Margaret Schlink has written a book *Violin for Adult Learners*.
 - Duets can be very successful.
- Group Classes:
 - Margaret Schlink arranges chamber music rather than tunes played in unison.
 - Rounds can be very successful.
- Email Margaret Schlink if you would like to purchase her book *Violin for Adult Learners*.

Brain Finlayson

- Be teachers that your students need. Be flexible enough to adjust or be prepared to send them to a different teacher that can.
- What does it take to be successful? Normal talent, but work like a dog. Success does not come cheaply. You have to work hard to get the rewards. Success is not a gift, but hard work.
- Instruments. As a teacher never sell your own instruments to students. What you say can be taken as gospel. You can listen to and check the instruments. Provide assistance/advice/suggestions in the context of sound – especially for bows (as they must fulfil certain circumstances). If you cannot afford to buy an expensive violin, consider buying an expensive bow as it can make a significant difference.