

# Cello Standards: Trouble Shooting Performance Technique

## Bow Length

- Shorter more concise bow strokes for faster runs - 1" 2" 3" in relation to tempo and type of note head
- Quarter bow stroke bring out more voice from the instrument's sound box
- Full bow stroke (tip to frog)
- Traveling bow - o o o - or the uneven bow length bow stroke (i.e. - 3 sixteenth notes slurred down bow followed by a quick up bow stroke that uses more bow to get back to the original down bow stroke starting position - depends on the note that needs to be emphasized to bring out the melody line)
- Saving bow
- Equal Distribution of bow stick

## Pressure and Weight of Bow

- Pulse at the beginning of a scale run
- Weight of the bow stick only
- Dig into string with weight of elbow transferring thru the 1st finger
- fast pulled bow to draw out voice in the sound box
- fast decay but not diminishing in sound that cuts off the sound

## Bow Hold

- Legato bow hold
- Colle bow hold [3 Finger Pick bow hold (index, pinky, thumb)]
- Relaxed weight (from upper back to the finger is relaxed but engaged to get a solid connection to the string)
- Relaxed throw (in the string)
- Practice with thumb under the frog

## Left Hand

- articulate in the left hand
  
- Bow placement (sul tasto, Lane 1, Lane 2, Lane 3, Lane 4, Lane 5, sul ponticello)
  
- Break it down - Separate left hand from right hand, Practice tone quality only in right hand without the left hand
  
- Find the underlying melody (hidden simplified melody that moves the line)
- Focused sound played in Lane 4
- Vibrato underlying melody
- Smooth connected resonating sound - find shape of the drawn bow during the string crossing (arch)
- 4 string chord - the make the lower strings growl save the bow on the bottom notes and break chord in the lower half of the bow
- Play in a Galant style
- Breakdown fast runs by practicing with alternate bowing
- Keep left hand loose and light during the fast runs
- Crane left hand - smooth shift
- Breakdown fast string crossings - wrist still mobile even with weight of elbow
- Keep distance between string crossing to a minimum
- Practice repeated string crossings as double stops to strengthen weak tones.
- String Crossings: Finish note, change planes, clean start on the new string