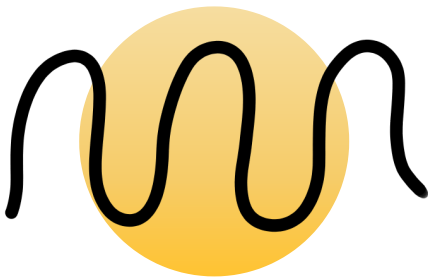


VIBRATO

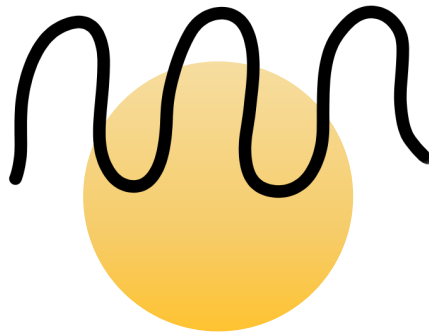
What is vibrato?

Vibrato is vibration or pulsation of the air that slightly changes the pitch of the note in a way that is pleasant, dramatic, or otherwise adds to musical expression.

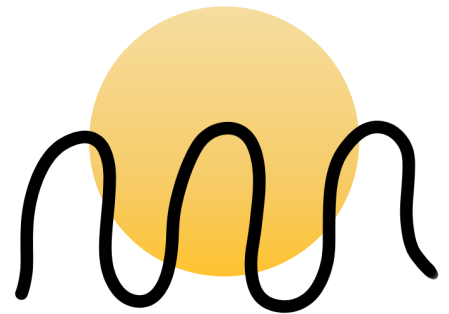
- ★ Vibrato should be played within the center of the tone. Students sometimes push the vibrato to the top or the bottom of the sound which can cause intonation and blend issues.



centered in the
sound

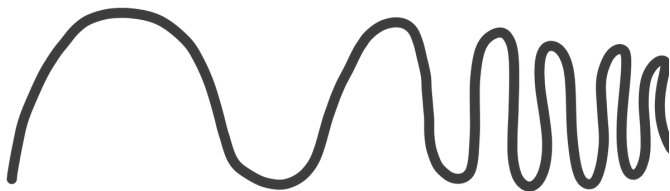


pushing to the top of
the sound



pushing to the bottom
of the sound

- ★ We can add variety to vibrato by changing the:
 - **frequency**: how often vibrations/pulses occur
 - and **depth**: how high and low the vibrations/pulses occur within the sound



frequency



depth

How do we practice vibrato?

- ★ To create vibrato, let's first try it without our flutes.
 1. Make a "sss" sizzle sound (like a snake).
 2. While making the sizzle sound, add pulses. (Where do you feel the movement? Your throat? Your abs?)
 3. Try changing the pitch of the sizzle sound so it goes lower, then higher.
 4. You'll probably feel the "vibrato" of the sizzle move from your throat, down through your chest, and way down into your abs (or the other way around).

- ★ Next, add the flute! Pick 1 note and see if you can make the pitch of the note change the same way that you did the sizzle.

- ★ Now, a vibrato exercise!
 - Set a metronome to Quarter Note = 60
 - Play a B in the middle of the staff
 - On each beat of the metronome, you'll pulse/vibrate two times
 - Advanced Option: do it on a descending chromatic scale. Each note gets 4 beats, 2 pulses of vibrato per beat.
 - Once you feel comfortable doing two pulses, try 3 pulses! Then 4, 5, and 6 pulses!

- ★ Try this Advanced Vibrato Exercise!
 - Set a metronome to Quarter Note = 60
 - On one note, play pulses of 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6
 - Each beat from the metronome adds another vibrato pulse

- ★ Finally, start incorporating vibrato into your solo and ensemble pieces. Long notes are a good place to add vibrato when you're getting started. Soon, you'll be able to add vibrato on all the notes! (If that's what makes musical sense, of course.)