

Lesson Three : Vibrato

Technique

~~~~ "can" or "rou" = vibrato

Vibrato is done by slightly vibrate the string in an up and down motion with left hand index, middle and ring fingers on the left side of the bridge. Close the three fingers together, and vibrate the string after you pluck with the right hand. The best position to do the vibrato is about one hand (6 – 7 inches) to the left of the bridge.

For regular standard vibrato, make sure your wrist is relaxed. Then slightly move up and down with your wrist when the three fingers are vibrating the strings. Do not use arm force, and do not bend down to raise the pitch.

The “**rou**” vibrato is casual and light. It’s often written as “~~~~” or omitted. It is to extend the ring of the string to create a sustaining tone. It is often applied to most of the long notes in the song.

The “**can**” vibrato is stronger and faster. It’s often used in traditional pieces or to express strong feelings.

## Drill 10

~~~~ 1 - 2 - | 3 - 5 - | 6 - 5 - | 3 - 2 - ||

You can also add vibrato to the previous drills and songs. Add vibrato on long notes, such as quarter note, half note or the whole note, or any note with a dot.

(8) Lake Taihu 太湖船

1=D 4/4

♩ = 80

Chinese Folk Song

$\overset{\sim}{3}$
 $\underset{\cdot}{3}$ $\underset{\cdot}{5}$ $\underset{\cdot}{3}$ $\underline{\underline{23}}$ | $\underset{\cdot}{5}$ $\underline{\underline{32}}$ $\overset{\sim}{3}$ - | $\overset{\sim}{3}$ $\overset{\sim}{5}$ $\underline{\underline{32}}$ $\underset{\cdot}{1}$ | $\overset{\sim}{2}$ $\underline{\underline{35}}$ $\overset{\sim}{2}$ $\underline{\underline{3}}$ |

$\overset{\sim}{1}$ $\overset{\sim}{16}$ $\overset{\sim}{5}$ $\underline{\underline{6}}$ | $\overset{\sim}{1}$ $\underline{\underline{23}}$ $\overset{\sim}{1}$ - | $\overset{\sim}{2}$ $\underline{\underline{3}}$ $\overset{\sim}{2}$ $\underline{\underline{3}}$ | $\overset{\sim}{5}$ $\underline{\underline{65}}$ $\overset{\sim}{3}$ - |

$\overset{\sim}{3}$ $\overset{\sim}{5}$ $\underline{\underline{32}}$ $\underset{\cdot}{1}$ | $\overset{\sim}{2}$ $\underline{\underline{35}}$ $\overset{\sim}{2}$ $\underline{\underline{3}}$ | $\overset{\sim}{1}$ $\overset{\sim}{16}$ $\overset{\sim}{5}$ $\underline{\underline{56}}$ | $\overset{\sim}{1}$ $\underline{\underline{23}}$ $\overset{\sim}{1}$ - ||

(9) June Jasmine 六月茉莉

1=D 4/4

♩ = 80

Taiwan Folk Song

$\overset{\sim}{5}$ $\underline{\underline{65}}$ $\overset{\sim}{1}$ $\underline{\underline{23}}$ | $\overset{\sim}{5}$ $\underline{\underline{61}}$ $\overset{\sim}{2}$ - | $\overset{\sim}{3}$ $\underline{\underline{21}}$ $\underline{\underline{61}}$ $\underline{\underline{6}}$ | $\underline{\underline{21}}$ $\underline{\underline{16}}$ $\overset{\sim}{5}$ - |

$\overset{\sim}{2}$ $\underline{\underline{61}}$ $\underline{\underline{65}}$ | $\underline{\underline{23}}$ $\underline{\underline{25}}$ $\overset{\sim}{3}$ - | $\overset{\sim}{6}$ $\underline{\underline{16}}$ $\underline{\underline{123}}$ $\underline{\underline{21}}$ | $\overset{\sim}{5}$ $\underline{\underline{61}}$ $\overset{\sim}{5}$ - ||