Lesson Plan for NYSSMA Music Views

Name: Phil Gelfer

Title: Teaching Vibrato to String Players

Level
- Elementary
✅ Middle School
  - High School

Content Area
- Band
- Chorus
- Classroom
✅ Orchestra

Objective
To provide teachers with exercises and tools to give students a foundation in the basic principles of vibrato study.

The NYS Learning Standard(s) this lesson will address...

✅ Creating, Performing and Participating in the Arts
✅ Knowing and Using Arts Materials and Resources
  - Responding to and Analyzing Works of Art
  - Understanding the Cultural Dimensions and Contributions of the Arts

National Standards for Music Education this lesson...

- Singing – alone and with others – a varied repertoire of music
- Performing on instruments – alone and with others – a varied repertoire of music
  - Improvising melodies, variations and accompaniments
  - Composing and arranging music within specific guidelines
- Reading and notating music
- Listening to, analyzing and describing music
- Evaluating music and music performances
- Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts
- Understanding music in relation to history and culture

Instructional Ideas
Breaking down vibrato exercises through metered rhythmic patterns, physical examples using a wall, metronome and proper shoulder support devices.
Assessment
- Proper hand position, even motions of the wrist, elbow and arm.
- Developing sound and beauty of tone.

References/Resources
- Most elementary lesson publications will illustrate proper left hand posture.
- A variety of shoulder pads are available depending on the needs of the individual.

Notes
- Careful attention should be paid to the circular motions necessary to creating a beautiful vibrato.
- Slow, measured and even movements are key to success.
- Demonstrates the sequential development of vibrato skills.