



## **Bowing Fluency: Developing String Orchestras That Play With Artistry**

*Bob Phillips*

### Precursors to fluid bow arms

- Correct instrument setup
- Properly formed bow holds – holding lightly
- Placing the bow - air landings
- Bendable elbows
- Flexible wrists – paint brushes
- Supple fingers – paint brush bristles
- Bow angles - Row, Row, Row Your Bow
- Tracking (elbows, arms, and tubes)

### Moving the bow

- Whole arm, forearm, wrist, hand, and fingers
- Levels of the bow
- Crawling the bow

### Tone

- Bowing lanes (mf, mp, F, p, FF, pp)
- Bow weight (medium-heavy, medium-light, heavy, light, very-heavy, very-light)
- Bow speed (medium-slow, medium-fast, slow, fast, very-slow, very-fast)

### Parts of the bow and starting points

- Whole bows (frog, tip)
- Half bows (frog, middle, tip)
- Thirds (frog, 1/3, 2/3, tip)

### Symmetrical and asymmetrical patterns

- Symmetrical even-length patterns
- Asymmetrical uneven-length patterns
- “Z” bowings

### Combined bowings

- Slurs
- Louré
- Portato
- Legato hooks
- Staccato hooks

### String crossings and chords

- Two strings, double stops
- Three strings, triple stops
- Four strings, rolled chords



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#### Resources

- Gillespie, R. and Phillips, R. (2008), *String Clinics to Go: Teaching Intermediate Skills DVD*.
- Phillips, R. and Moss, K. (2017), *Sound Innovations, Creative Warm-ups for Intermediate String Orchestra*.
- Phillips, R. and Moss, K. (2012), *Sound Innovations, Sound Development, Warm-up Exercises for Tone and Technique, Intermediate String Orchestra*
- Phillips, R. and Moss, K. (2013) *Sound Innovations, Sound Development, Warm-up Exercises for Tone and Technique, Advanced String Orchestra*
- Hopkins, M. *String Pedagogy Notebook*, [online.www.stringtechnique.com](http://www.stringtechnique.com)

[www.alfred.com](http://www.alfred.com)

[www.phillipsfiddlers.com](http://www.phillipsfiddlers.com)

[www.totalsheetmusic.com](http://www.totalsheetmusic.com)