

CELLO

String Techniques

Vibrato: A technique used most of the time in modern string playing to make the tone warmer and more expressive. The finger being used to play the note is rocked back and forth so that the pitch alters very slightly up and down. The player can vary the speed and width of the vibrato. Sometimes players are instructed to play '*senza vibrato*' (without) for a colder sound.

Legato/ slurs: playing notes smoothly; the effect can be made even smoother by 'slurring' them in one bow. Strings can also play very long sustained notes.

Example: Mendelssohn Trio in D minor Andante con moto tranquillo

https://soundcloud.com/galos_trio/08-mendelssohn-piano-trio-in-d

Fibich – Poème

https://soundcloud.com/galos_trio/04-fibich-poeme

Staccato: Short notes which strings can play either on (martelé) or off the string (spiccato/ bouncing bow)

Example: Frank Bridge – Hornpipe

https://soundcloud.com/galos_trio/06-bridge-hornpipe

Pizzicato: plucking the strings with either hand but usually the bow hand.

Example: Tomo y Obligo (Cello at the beginning)

https://soundcloud.com/galos_trio/09-gardel-arr-meredith-tomo-y

Double Stopping: Playing two notes at once if on adjacent strings – chords of 3 or 4 notes can also be played but the notes need to be 'spread' across the strings.

Special effects:

Snap/Bartok Pizzicato: Plucking the string so hard that it hits the fingerboard (both instruments can do this but cellos can do this more effectively as their strings are longer).

Glissando: Sliding the finger along the string to make the note 'swoop'

Col legno: playing with the wooden stick of the bow instead of the hair.

Sul Tasto: Playing over the fingerboard for a very soft sound

Sul Ponticello: Playing right on or very near the bridge for a rough/ icy sound

Tremolo: Bowing as fast as you can for a shivery effect, or rapidly changing between two notes further apart than a 2nd

Trills: Rapidly changing notes a 2nd apart

Mutes: A device which clamps on to the bridge to make a softer sound

Harmonics: Make a sound like whistling; there are two types

Natural harmonic: producing a note one or two octaves higher than the open string

False harmonic: sounds two octaves higher than written; melodies can be played like this

Piano Techniques:

Large range of pitch: very low to very high notes

Sustaining Pedal: lifts the dampers so the notes ring on after the keys have been released

Una Chorda Pedal: Damps two of the three strings for each note making a softer sound

Arpeggiation: Ripling chords using one or both hands

Chords: Can play up to 10 notes at once but if the notes are too far apart the chord will have to be spread (notes played one after another).

All Instruments:

- Dynamic range ***ppp – fff***

- Can play in unison/ octaves Listen: Gabriel Fauré Trio – violin and cello in unison https://youtu.be/rj0uICVf_7w from 2'54''
- Smooth or detached notes
- Fast repetitions of notes

Listening to the Galos Piano Trio:

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrH8NLAhHgR7Aq-ovtY_-2g

Sound cloud: https://soundcloud.com/galos_trio

Other Piano trios;

James Macmillan – Piano Trio No2 (repeated notes, glissando, pizzicato, false harmonics)

<https://youtu.be/Rx4Cj0naKJ4>

Johanna Doderer – Composer talks about writing for the piano trio

https://youtu.be/VPSu_jqY_Hg

Galos Piano Trio