

RULES OF THUMB ON HOW TO PLAY MUSICALLY OR HOW TO GO BEYOND THE “INK”:

- 1) Create a musical line
 - a. Arch phrases
 - b. Notes that are longer than two beats need to do something
 - c. Two notes next to each other should be different volumes
 - d. Taper the end notes of phrases
 - e. For echoes, do something different the second time.
- 2) Balance
 - a. Balance to the melody
 - b. Make volume based on note value (the slower the note, the softer the part)
 - c. Keep the pyramid in mind (small pyramids, within a section; large pyramid, full ensemble)
- 3) Blend with voices that have the same parts (create a new instrument sound)
- 4) Match style within and between sections (articulations, bowings, etc.)
- 5) Phrasing – breathe with phrases or stagger the breathing to hide them
- 6) Vibrato on long notes (strings and/or soloists)
- 7) Stay out of the “mezzo-zone” – take chances and don’t be a sheep!
- 8) “To play a wrong note is insignificant; to play without passion is inexcusable.” – Ludwig van Beethoven

