
Julie's Consonants and Vowels Exercises

/ˈkɒns(ə)nənt/ /ˈvɑʊəl/



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1. Consonants warm-up:

a) Take 2 contrasting consonants (like K and M) and figure out how to make their sounds with your bow. Say the consonant in your mouth - where does it sit? Back of throat? Front of teeth? How long or short is it? How sharp or smooth? How hard or soft? Etc.

Say it, play it.

b) Take two similar consonants (M and N, or P and T) and do the same.

Repeat as much as you like, but even a couple of these a day gets your brain on track!

2. Vowels warm up:

Go through the vowel sounds, say it out loud and try to replicate the sound on your instrument. I like these ones - A (as in Play), Ee, Ah, Oh, Oo

Where do you feel them in your mouth? Are they nasal or open? In your nose or mouth?

Find those sounds on your instrument. Experiment with contact point, bow speed, pressure, etc.

3. Words warm-up.

Choose a 1 8ve scale. Play it with your tuner to make sure you are in tune, I recommend a V pedal. Then, choose 8 words to go with each note. Names are fun, but it can be anything. For example, Julia, Oskar, Kailey, Cristina, Albert, Matteo, Carla, Manu, John!

For each scale degree, try to make the sound of that word. We are practicing small gestures here. Pay attention to the accenting of the word, the beginning and ending consonants, the vowels in between, etc.

4. Choose a beautiful baroque song that you wish you could sing if you were a singer. English or your first language.

Play the song using the text to play exact consonants and vowels. Go slowly at first and really work it out. Sing it yourself, then play it and try to match it.
