



Ten Crown Jewels of Orchestral String Awesomeness!



1. **Keep your focus forward.**

Think, look and listen ahead. Hear the note that you're about to play, and play to the phrase's destination.

2. **Easy does it.**

Be proud of your facility, your ease of action. Let your focus be ferocious but your body never tense.

3. **Breathe naturally.**

The way you breathe affects everything: your posture, technique, steady rhythm, and sense of ensemble.

4. **Let the BOW lead the show.**

Your finest tone enables your finest intonation, articulation, left-hand precision, and vibrato.

5. **Be in the same part of the bow as your section leader.**

It makes the difference between **unity** and *yucky*.

6. **Focus as if YOU are the section leader.**

You have the power to enhance the **confidence** and **musical presence** of those around you.

7. **Be *leggiero* in all things Classical.**

The magic touch is *leggiero* (lightly) with the bow. Keep energy light and *up*, not heavy and down.

8. **Analyze / synthesize.**

In personal practice, dissect the tricky bits. In group rehearsal, pay attention to the way things fit together.

9. **Dance or sing, lead or support.**

Decide whether a motive is more rhythmic or more lyrical. Know whether a line is leading or supportive.

10. **Engage your 'Style Trek!'**

Adopt Mr. Spock's Vulcan philosophy: "Infinite diversity in infinite combinations."

Be eager to discover all the elements that make one piece of music distinct from another.

Music from one place and time should have a different sound and style than music from another.