

Singing While Stringing

A tool for greater musical mastery

epelta@hotmail.com

THE CHALLENGE: Bowed string instruments are often compared to the human voice. Maybe that's one reason why, whether you're playing violin, viola, or even cello, it can feel so challenging to sing and play at the same time. That, and the fact that as bowed string players, we're trained to think melodically, instead of rhythmically. There's also the curious problem of proximity of the instrument to the vocal cords for those of us who play violin and viola.

In this class, we're going to explore a multi-faceted approach to singing while stringing, and why you should learn to do it, even if you're not a singer or songwriter.

THE METHOD: We'll explore exercises in each category. The goal? Unifying your instrument and voice as one. Jot down the ones that resonate with you.

0. Before you start - warm up the body!

1. Warm up the voice.

2. Center your posture and rhythmic practice with your instrument.

3. Warm up the instrument and the voice together.

4. Go for it! Arrange, experiment, explore. The metronome is your friend.

5. Find a million ways you can use and hone your new skill! It's not just about performance - this skill is a fantastic teaching and learning tool.