

Mid-Year Evaluation

I still remembered standing in the bathrooms – where I usually practice because of the good acoustic and the presence of a mirror; which is not weird by the way– and wondered to myself 'when will I ever sound like that first violinist that played the solo today in class?'. How can I make that smooth sound from my scratchy tone with awkward pauses between bow changes? That was a year ago. Earlier in the year in my Pre-evaluation, I gave myself a higher score for Tone. And I feel proud of this change. It was as if playing like how I do now marked the end of my beginning violinist phrase, and raised me up to another level. Perhaps it doesn't sound as good to other as it is to my ears, but my tone have improved greatly and I am content enough with it for now.

I can also do vibrato with my first and pinky finger now. Though they are a little bit stiff when I go up to high positions, so I still need to work on that. I am better with third position. When I first started to learn third position, someone told me that it's only when you can play it naturally like you do in first that you have master third. I am near that point. I no longer have to think much about the note. With shifting, the biggest problem I have is keeping my first finger down when I do. Keeping the first finger down will allow me to know where I am on the fingerboard, but I always lift it up. This is muscle-memory that needs to be build over time.

I have trouble with harmonic because I am not sure which part of the string will make the sound that I need. Simple harmonic like in the middle of the string is good, but one where I have to press my first finger down is still a little bit shaky. My double stops in Seitz's Concerto do not sound as harsh as before, but I can not play them fast. My triple and quadruple stop is cleaner, but they also lack speed. Speed has always been my biggest problem and it still is. I struggled my way through Dance of the Tumbler and my Handel Sonata this fall. And it is my greatest regret so far. My goal in the spring semester is to fix this. As well as to focus more on my individual solos as well as my responsibilities as a member of our orchestra.