

Well, this thread has been educational but I would like to add some observations from the twilight zone.

When I see a printed note I consider many things:

Pitch

Where is that note on the fingerboard?

What is the duration of the note?

Is there any special articulation (stacatto,etc.)?

Any special finger/arm position (as in long 4th finger on the "G" string).

Is open string the best choice where important?

What direction should the bow go in?

Is the note to be loud or soft?

How fast is the music?

And running in the background

Remember vertical fingers (left hand).

Maintain finger/hand position.

Bow at right angles.

Keep elbow down.

Now, I'm sure there is more to add to my lists but the original topic had to do with practicing.

WHEN I MESS UP THE MUSIC, IT IS NEVER BECAUSE I VIOLATED ALL OF THE ABOVE ITEMS AT THE SAME TIME.

My trouble may be due to only one or a few of the above issues. I get better results to isolate the trouble maker(s) and seek remedies in perhaps other method books or etudes or scales or whatever. But I just do not continue to play the same song over and over (hence, "practicing my mistakes".) (I will admit there was a time I might spend half a day trying to conquer a piece of music but the music always won and I would toss it on the "next year" pile. Now, I am a lot more sneaky.)