

## Long & Short of it

It's never too late to be what you might have been. ~ George Eliot

*This is a great way to create smooth, even technique. You can use this whenever you have 2 or more*

*♪'s, ♪'s, triplets or 32nd note passages or any series of notes you are practicing.*

**1. Choose a passage that needs your attention.**

**2. Use the dotted figure:**

♪. ♪ = long - short to play the passage .

**3. Use the dotted figure:**

♪. ♪ = short - long to play the passage .

### More Practice Ideas:

**1. Always with rhythm and a regular pulse. Begin slowly and gradually increase your tempo. Listen Listen Listen!**

**2. if it is a Slurred series of notes - Tongue them!**

**3. if it is a Tongued series of notes - Slur them!**

**More Ideas:** Use this technique to even out your Scales and Arpeggio practice too! remember Scales are Music too!

**Listen:** Elizabeth Rowe, flute **CP:** Boston Symphony Recordings **Look:** [Elizabeth Rowe - Boston Symphony Interview](#)

## Creating Long Lines

The journey of a thousand miles, begins with one step. ~ Lao Tzu

**Where are you and the music taking us on this musical journey?**

**1. Intention = Know where you are going & be open and present to the moments along the way!**

**2. Breath =** Flow. Using your **Breath** is the most important factor in creating a long musical, line. To create more flow between 2 notes, make a **small crescendo** as you move between them.

**3. Dynamics =** Create a gradual **growth and fading**. Make a **colorful and shapely** dynamic design. **Use numbers** for guiding your dynamics. 1 = softest dynamic. The higher the number the greater the dynamic volume.

**4. Rhythm =** The **steady heartbeat** of a musical line, with **organic rhythmic movement**, creates a flowing line. No sudden changes of tempo and no rhythmic bumps in the note groupings.

**5. Vibrato =** As Mr. Kincaid said, "**vibrato can be a direction indicator.**" Listen to your vibrato and use it to give **direction, color and movement** to your musical line. **Direction** by varying the speed and width. **Color** by adding a shimmer of vibrato to special notes in the phrase.

**6. Smooth Finger Movement =** Check to see that your fingers are moving as a mirror to your musical line. Finger movement is: **lyrical, legato, gliding, graceful, smooth, silky...**

**7. Balanced Moveable Body, Supported Sound =** ease of **breathing** and **body** and long musical lines.

**More Ideas:** What is a long line of music? What does this mean to you? There are infinite ways of expressing a musical line... What is yours?

**Listen:** [to musicians who play between the notes...](#) **CP: & Look:** [Aaron Copland - Appalachian Spring](#)