SPICCATO: A LONG AND BUMPY ROAD?
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Spiccato: A bowing technique in which the bow bounces on the string. Spiccato is a continuum of strokes described in terms of height and length.

From Simon Fischer’s “Basics” (1997, p. 78)

Spiccato Checkpoints:
✓ Bow-hand shape is round and relaxed
✓ Shoulders are relaxed and bow arm is moving properly
✓ Fingers adjust to allow the bow to bounce
✓ Students understand how to locate and play at the balance point
✓ Students can vary the height, length, and contact point of the bounce

Teaching Framework:
1. Pre-spiccato exercises
   a. Tall fingers, short fingers
   b. Play & flex
   c. Scrubs
2. Find the natural balance point of the bow
   a. Trampoline bowing
3. Brush stroke
   a. Legato to Brush stroke; alternate on and off
4. Spiccato
   a. Height, area, contact point, tilt

Spiccato Prerequisites:
- Demonstrate a round and relaxed bow-hand shape
- Pronate the hand into the bow stick
- Use of at least ¾ (if not all) of the bow length.
- Proper bow-arm movement
- Identify and play at the balance point of the bow
- Flex and extend the right-hand fingers while holding the bow

Suggested Repertoire:
(beginning to advanced spiccato)

Gargoyles (Doug Spata)
Harvest Moon (Larry Clark)
Harrowland (Doug Spata)
Assemble the Minions (Jeffrey Bishop)
Pioneer Sky (Doug Spata)
Boreas: The Cold, North Wind (Todd Parrish)

Further Reading: