

## A REAL Viola Sound – Finding the Inner, Unique “YOU”

What is a REAL viola sound? Have you ever asked yourself this question? If you ask me, there are a number of factors which play a role in the creation of such a sound...one is finding the inner, unique “YOU”!

- Be truthful about your feelings and find the inner, unique “YOU.”
- Playing the viola is beyond showing off. It is about showing your musical imagination and the emotions that the music incites within you.
- Sincerity will make all the difference for an audience; they will be grateful to you for sharing your gift and pulling their imagination upward from merely what’s on their next day’s shopping list.
- Act out your music! The best actors make you believe that they are truly moved to tears when experiencing certain situations. If you step into your musical character 150%, the public will believe you. Whether you choose to be heroic or in pain – music holds it all; you get to decide when and where you become what character. And just like actors, even if you are not in the mood for stepping into a certain emotion, you still have to jump in 150% and make the audience believe in the sincerity of your actions. When feeling sad, bring your tears to the verge of flowing; when feeling happy, be jumping up and down ready to burst with joy!
- Believe in your uniqueness. Only you hear the way you do and only you perceive certain notes in a certain way. On the page, a phrase might look the same to two different people, but when one colors it in his own way, that phrase becomes unique to that individual.
- Dare to go there! Step far into your emotions; it will be worth every step. You will leave the public speechless and forever grateful! If you give of yourself and share your inner and utmost imagination through the viola sound – with all its millions of levels of expressive possibilities, there will be nothing left to say. You can never make a fool of yourself if you are truly sincere.

*This post first appeared in the inaugural year of the AVS Studio Blog, January 22, 2013, featuring the viola studios at the Juilliard School. To view more of those posts, please visit: <http://americanviolasociety.org/studio/>*



*Born in Vienna, Jutta Puchhammer-Sédillot is full professor of viola and chamber music at the Université de Montréal Faculty of Music, where she served as director of the string section from 1999 to 2010. She has been a guest of renowned institutions as a viola teacher, including Juilliard School of Music and the New School in New York, the Hochschule für Musik in Vienna, the Conservatoire supérieur de Lyon and the CRR de Paris, the Universidad Central in Bogota and several universities in Western Canada. Ms. Puchhammer-Sédillot trained at the Wiener Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst under Siegfried Fühlringer and perfected her art at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, under the direction of Heidi Castleman. She also worked with summer camps organized by the Perlman Music Program (with Itzhak Perlman), the North American Viola Institute (with Heidi Castleman), the Orford Arts Centre and the Teach Teachers Teach (TTT) program offered in Chile. Besides her teaching career she also frequently performs as a soloist, recitalist, chamber musician with diverse ensembles and holds the position of principal viola of the Laval Symphony Orchestra. She is very active in the international viola scene, having organized International viola congresses and Canadian viola festivals, and has been awarded the Maurice Riley award four International achievement in 2006. She is interested in reviving forgotten music from the beginning of the 20th century. Her latest project include the French "Pieces de concours », which will be reedited by the SCHOTT edition.*