


Sonata No. 4 in F Major
for solo violin
by Antonio Vivaldi

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Performance Preparation

- Musical Character vs. Structure
 - Which is more important in developing an interpretation?
 - “Although it is always possible to view expression as being about musical structure, this approach misses the essence of musical communication, which is to move listeners and to stimulate their imagination.”
- Bruno H. Repp

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Performance Example

- Vivaldi Sonata No. 4 in F major
- When starting from scratch:
 1. Begin with literal reading
 2. Basic structural cues help determine character
 3. Expression = Deviation from literal
 4. Character guides expressive deviation
- What can we do to convey character?

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Tools for Expression

- Tempo
- Timbre
 - Bow: speed, pressure, sounding point
 - Vibrato
 - Fingering
- Dynamics
- Intonation

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Final Interpretation

- Baroque-style
 - Minimal vibrato
 - Pure, open sound
 - No sliding
- Character/Mood
 - Peaceful, Pure, Naïve, Youthful

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