

Bowed string players chat — Sunday, April 22

Apr 22	7:55 PM
Wendy C.	has entered the room
	8:00 PM
Br	has entered the room
Wendy C.	Is that you, Brian!
	Not sure who BR is!
Rochelle D.	has entered the room
Gaelen	has entered the room
Br	Why the heck did it...hang on.
Br	has left the room
Br	has entered the room
Br	has left the room
Br	has entered the room
Br	oh well. yes, it is Brian
Wendy C.	That's strange!
	Hi Gaelen! Wendy here
Gaelen	Hi Wendy! Hi everyone! My first time in a text chat
Wendy C.	You type your questions at the bottom of the screen just to the left of the "Send message"
Br	I think I typed "Br" and my whole name popped up in the window and in selecting that, I see to have only come through as Br
	Hello!
Wendy C.	Gaelen – I just sent you an email which you can read later
Rochelle D.	Hello everybody!
Wendy C.	Let's wait's a few more minutes
	8:05 PM
Wendy C.	Ok, I "pinged" two additional people
	We'll see if they show up
	We have a new person – Gaelen McCormick
	Gaelen hails from Rochester, New York.
Br	The bassist Gaelen McCormick?
Wendy C.	Yes!
	Gaelen is getting a CI soon, I think
	Gaelen, Brian Del Bianco is a double bass player studying audiology in Ohio.
Br	Hi Gaelen. We've crossed paths in...Canton I think?
Gaelen	Brian! Do you remember me?
	Yes I think that's right
Br	I do, but it is the gigs that I can't keep straight.
Wendy C.	And Rochelle Drucker is a violin student in Florida. She hears with a cochlear implant from Cochlear Corporation
Gaelen	I was a grad in Jeff Turner's studio at that point. same here, the gigs all blur together
Wendy C.	Who is Jeff Turner?
Br	Wheeling too?

Wendy C.	So Rochelle, how are you doing with your studies?
Br	Hi Rochelle
Wendy C.	On the violin, I mean
Gaelen	I did Wheeling only once, and we got flooded the day of the concert. Jeff Turner is the principal bass of the Pittsburgh Symphony and was my primary teacher at Carnegie Mellon Univ where I did my master's
Rochelle D.	OK. Hanging in there. Soon will start Elements Book 3
Andrea S.	has entered the room
	8:10 PM
Andrea S.	Hello everyone. Sorry I'm late. Crazy day!
Br	hi
Gaelen	hi!
Wendy C.	Hi Andrea! Nice meeting you. You play violin, right?
	Are you a teacher?
	And Andrea, where are you from?
Andrea S.	That's right – fiddle actually ;)
Wendy C.	I'll do intros again
Andrea S.	Smithers BC Canada. Not a teacher at all – just for fun.
Wendy C.	Gaelen is a double bass player from Rochester, New York who is getting a cochlear implant soon.
	Brian Del Bianco is a double bass player studying audiology in Ohio
	Rochelle is a violin student with a cochlear implant
Andrea S.	Great to meet you all.
Wendy C.	And then there's me who plays viola and has bilateral CI from a company called Advanced Bionics
	Andrea, do you wear hearing aids?
	Topic for today's chat is how to play with the right amount of dynamics
Kimberly	has entered the room
Andrea S.	I have SN genetic ski slope moderate–severe loss, wear HA x 20 years, just got new Signias. It has been an interesting struggle programming them. I was trialling Opns at teh same time.
Wendy C.	And do you think the Oticon Opns are helping or not?
	Kimberly, we have a fiddler here who is trying out new hearing aids
Kimberly	Hello all
	8:15 PM
Kimberly	Oh cool, what kind kf hearing aids?
	Of
	Sorry, my typing is bad. Fat thumbs. Heeheehee
Andrea S.	I decided to go with the Signia's (formerly Siemens) instead of the Opns. Better for music.
Wendy C.	Kimberly is a violinist who grew up in North Carolina and now lives near Richmond, Virginia
Andrea S.	Signia 7Nx.
Wendy C.	Oh, ok. Andrea, do the Signias have bluetooth and telecoil?
	do you have the Signias in both ears?
	or just one ear?
	Topic for today's discuss is how to do dynamic shading.
Andrea S.	They have a musician program. Subset of their music program. Yes Bluetooth and direct to iphone. I don't think Tcoil in these ones but other models do.
	Bilateral.
Wendy C.	Ok Thanks for the heads–up.

	Dynamics are hard when you have hearing loss.
	For string players, bow pressure and bow speed are key
	but when you don't have normal hearing, how do you when you are actually playing mezzor forte or forte?
Kimberly	Yes, I relay mainly on physical markers..
Wendy C.	Do you move your bow further away when doing descrescendo passages?
Br	it is all relative to the surroundings. The lines are blurred. A mf in one hall is going to get swallowed up by another.
Wendy C.	I mean do you move your bow further away from the bridge when doing decrescendo passages?
	8:20 PM
Kimberly	Sometimes..it depends on the music and what the texture is..if lobj notee, yee, I lighten weight and move bow away..if busy texture, I lighten weight and use less bow..
Wendy C.	What makes musical texture "busy"?
Kimberly	I also watch for other players cue..if I am too loud or sticking out, usually someone will glance at you..
Wendy C.	Kimberly is so brave. I'm not sure I could handle glares from other players . . .
Kimberly	Busy would be maybe many notes..so maybe sixteenth notes..but as for a background of main theme
Andrea S.	Agree! Fortunately fiddle players are less demanding!
Wendy C.	That works for defining busy.
Gaelen	I think of "busy" like you: lots of active rhythm, or densely orchestrated
Br	Since getting into audiology, I've been obsessive about ear plugs in orchestras so in a way, I do play with a decent hearing loss. I tend to go by feel and bow weight to change things. I can also judge by how much the string is vibrating as to how much sound may be coming out.
Kimberly	Since I have been deaf basically my whole life, and have worn aids since I was 6, AND I'm Asian.. I'm used to be stared at..
Gaelen	Kimberly - LOL, you are a trooper
Br	I've also been used to spending years next to low brass so I've been used to not hearing myself.
Wendy C.	I'm deaf and I'm Asian too, but didn't pick up bowed strings until college. But Kimberly IS a trooper
Gaelen	Brian - I got into wearing hearing protection all the time, so I put a self-impairment on as well. I use the feel of the string resistance to tell me how focused my sound is, but it's still hard to know if that is "loud enough" for ensemble playing. lately I am really dependent on others to help me know how to balance
Wendy C.	So Brian, if the strings on your bass are vibrating a great deal, more sound is coming out?
	I think vibrating strings are easier to see on a heavy bass or cello because they are thicker when compared violins and violas
Br	Usually. It isn't a very scientific approach, but I sometimes use it to check some pitches too. If I'm playing a low G and the open G is vibrating like mad, I don't need to hear the low G to know that I'm on.
	8:25 PM
Wendy C.	That's impressive you can do that Brian!
Br	It only works on some notes though.
Wendy C.	Rochelle, you've been quiet! How are your lessons coming along?
	Right, Brian - it works on some note only.
Gaelen	Wendy, you can also learn to feel it through the stick/bow. Playing with the contact point and feeling the looseness or tightness of the string will help you feel how much control you have on that string, that particular note. from there you can start to adjust weight/speed and use that natural tension of the string to help with dynamic control.
Andrea S.	I wonder if what I am hearing is what others are hearing when I'm playing with them. For example these new HA initially made the fiddle sound very wavery (fluttery. we fixed that but it reminded me that perception is a huge part of hearing...I don't think the sound was fluttering, I just heard it like that because of the processing. BR - I think my teacher calls those "ringing notes"?
Kimberly	So, here is a question for everyone. When you go to the symphony or any other music venue..and there are bass players, do you actually hear the bass?
Gaelen	I have such huge pitch distortion that I no longer go to concerts
Rochelle D.	

	Pretty good. Man..y'all r over my head. I'm still struggling with proper bowing and hitting the notes on spot. I'm still a beginner!
Gaelen	but I can hear my bass students. is that different though? there is no distraction
Andrea S.	Fortunately I do – I have mostly high freq loss. And HA are pretty amazing.
Kimberly	I tell my students to listen for the ringing notes, yet, I honestly have never heard thr notes ring..
Wendy C.	Kimberly – I actually don't hear bass notes very well. I can hear them, but I can't tell notes apart if they are an octave below middle C or more
Gaelen	rochelle, full disclosure – I was a professional orchestral musician until a year ago.
Natalie	has entered the room
Andrea S.	I can't hear the ringing notes either. Seeing the string vibrate works though.
Wendy C.	Kimberly, with a hearing loss, you can't hear the notes ring without assistive listening devices
Kimberly	I remember playing with some group, and there were 3 bass players..thr conductor kept saying listen to the bass, follow the bass..
Wendy C.	Hi Natalie!
Natalie	Hello! I'm a bit late to the party!
Wendy C.	Yeah, that's super annoying, Kimberly!
Gaelen	But Kimberly, can YOU hear the bass? If not, could you position to see them?
Andrea S.	Don't you just cringe when someone insists you listen!! To anything!!
Kimberly	I just watch the bass and watch their bow arm..
Wendy C.	Natalie is a violin student from Washington state, not far from Seattle
Natalie	I disagree on the ringing notes thing. I can hear ringing 3rds great. But not ringing 4th fingers/open strings.
	8:30 PM
Gaelen	K – exactly. In my mind that is just as good for timing your playing
Br	We've talked in class about preferential seating for kids in class to better hear the teachers. Can that be done in your groups too to hear what you need to hear?
Wendy C.	Natalie I can hear the sympathetic ringing
Kimberly	I can't hear bass at all..I see them..I watch them..and on occasion, I feel them
Wendy C.	Kimberly, I think you can't hear bass because bass note sometime go below 250 hertz
	and 250 hertz is where the speech frequencies begin
Kimberly	Probably so. I don't use any assistive listening devices..
Wendy C.	most hearing aids are designed to hear frequencies 250 hertz or higher
Andrea S.	Natalie, do you wear HA?
Gaelen	Brian – I can say in a professional setting, I could have invoked ADA, and did internally ask my section to allow me to always sit in this one spot so i could hear optimally. They were so great about helping me until I couldn't continue.
Natalie	i have bilateral CI's.
Wendy C.	Natalie is like me – she has CIs from Advanced Bionics
Br	you're touching on a frustration of mine with hearing aids and audiology. They view the world as being 250–8000 Hz and we all know that there are very important sounds beyond that.
Andrea S.	Wendy do teh "music programs" on modern HA allow lower freq? They allow higher.
	Higher than older HA.
Wendy C.	That's a good question. I might pose that to the group to find which HA will go below the 250 hertz.
Gaelen	My audio said there is no one making a good robust low freq HA bc they claim there is no market for it (!)
Andrea S.	Brian new HA have a broader input range I think – Signia, Oticon – in their music programs.
Kimberly	I think I may need new HA soon. These were great 10 yrs ago..but, I am finding I can't hear high pitches too well anymore
Gaelen	Does Earlens have a better time with low freq

Wendy C.	That's a shame
	Not sure about Earlens. Brian, do you know?
Br	I don't think that any do. You start risking things getting muddy—at least they think so. I think if in ear monitors can have the technology to reach a wide frequency range, HAs can too.
Andrea S.	Huge huge huge change in HA technology in last few years. Do it!!
Kimberly	Do any of your aids pick up electrical static?
Gaelen	Heard a great lecture on CI and music perception last week, given by Dr Andrew Oxenham from U Minnesota Twin Cities. He cited all the reasons why CI is failing us at music, and low freq in particular and what needs to happen now for that to change. It's a long way off from the look of it :(
Br	Kimberly, have you had them adjusted lately? 10 years is a heck of a run for HAs though so maybe it is time.
	8:35 PM
Kimberly	I can hear lightening..I hear this electrical buzz right before the lightening flash
Gaelen	Kimberly – mine do not pick up static. Agree with others, 10 years is amazing. treat yourself, if you can, to new ones.
Kimberly	Hahaha, yeah, I have them serviced yearly..
Wendy C.	With my CIs, I can hear notes below middle C, but have problems dscriminating notes if they are less than 2 whole steps apart
Kimberly	New HA are tremendously expensive. :(
Wendy C.	Yes, I know Kim
Gaelen	I know, it is criminal
Wendy C.	but you need them for your livelihood
	you are a Suzuki violin teacher, right?
Andrea S.	Here is a link to very superficial info about Signia and music processing. https://pro.signiausa.com/2016/03/07/primax-the...
Wendy C.	Natalie, where are you on Suzuki book 4?
Gaelen	brian plug your ears for a moment. if they would think about NOT funding viagra and maybe for a moment fully funding HAs for men and women... (off my soapbox now)
Kimberly	I'm hoping to get at least 1 new one next yr and then the other ear thr next yr
Andrea S.	I believe they do process a braoder range of frequencies.
Kimberly	Yes, I am a Suzuki vln teacher
Wendy C.	Kimberly, you migth want to look into getting hearing aids from Costco
	the price are said to be more reasonable
Natalie	Wendy: I'm on the first piece. Seitz Concerto.
Gaelen	Kimberly, can vocational rehab help you in your area?
Wendy C.	but you probably need an updated audiogram
Br	*pretends that he didn't see that suggestion from Wendy*
Kimberly	I did look at Costco...thrybtold me they were not powerful enough for me
Wendy C.	So you showed them your audiogram?
	Hmm.
Natalie	gotten a lttle off track between several group class concerts playing book 1 and 2 stuff, and the Improv workshop in Chicago.
Kimberly	I did have voc rehab to help go to college..
Wendy C.	But since you are working now they won't cover new hearing aids?
Kimberly	But they will not since I am just a "private teacher" and not main breadwinner
Wendy C.	Not fair
	so sorry for Kim
Gaelen	unjust

Br	It is nuts, isn't it?
Wendy C.	Kim, put up a GofundMe page and I will contribute
	I'm serious.
Andrea S.	How much are high end HA in teh states/ Mine were \$4000 Canadian.
Kimberly	Hahaha.. Thanks...we'll see
Gaelen	what about buying them off ebay? (sorry brian)
Andrea S.	Sorry - "in the States"
Br	They range depending on the level of technology
Andrea S.	Top end.
Wendy C.	Brian and Gaelen might a better idea of pricing than I do
	8:40 PM
Kimberly	My current pair were \$3500 each..and that was 10 yrs ago
Wendy C.	What are you wearing now, Kimberly?
Br	4 or 5 grand isn't out of the ordinary.
Gaelen	My Widex was \$3500 for one (I only need one, deaf on other side, not using a cros system right now)
Wendy C.	Widex 440?
Gaelen	Widex 440
Kimberly	I have Oticons..I forgotbthr model and such..butbat the time, they were top ofnline Oticons..I wanted Siemens, but even more expenave
Andrea S.	Wow!!! Range from \$400 to \$6500 per pair here. Includes accessories (streamer) too.
Gaelen	This included nothing. I bought the TV thingy
Wendy C.	Oticon Opns?
Andrea S.	Sorry - \$4000 not 400
Kimberly	Not sure, but sounds about right
	They are digital, can do bluetooth, vut at the time I didn't have anything bluetooth, so I never had it turned on
Wendy C.	Oticon probably didn't have OpN 10 years ago
	Please get them turned on. You can do so much bluetooth now
	I use my ComPilot to stream bluetooth
Kimberly	My next pair, I want bluetooth, and programmable sets..and I hear they have water resistant ones now
Wendy C.	to hear music on the laptop
Fred B.	has entered the room
Fred B.	Hello
Wendy C.	Natalie, I never studied the Seitz concertos. I did learn Vivaldi's A minor concerto
Kimberly	Last I went to audiologist, to ask about turning on bluetooth, she said she couldn't because the tech was too old and they didn't service that bkuetooth anymore
Wendy C.	Hi Fred! Please let us know what you play, and where you live
Br	Hi Fred
Wendy C.	I'm Wendy, I play viola and I have bilateral cochlear implants
Kimberly	Natalie, are you in Suzuki book 4?
Andrea S.	The part behind the ear is water resistant, but you can't get water in your ear or it will short out (receiver). Very annoying. I used to have Phonak H2os that I could swim in. No company is making waterproof HA now.
Kimberly	Hey Fred!
Fred B.	I play clarinet and sax. Just signed on to see what a text chat is like.
	8:45 PM

Wendy C.	Br is Brian Del Bianco, who plays string bass and is studyinig audiology
	8:45 PM
Wendy C.	Well, the chat for Woodwind players is coming up soon
Kimberly	I'm Kim, i play the violin and have bilateral HA
Andrea S.	I'm Andrea, fiddle, bilateral HA
Wendy C.	Fred – did you hear about this chat on Facebook or Big Tent?
Natalie	i'm Natalie, Violin player, bilateral CI's.
Kimberly	Waterproof HA would be amazing!
Rochelle D.	I'm Rochelle...violin...1 C.I
Gaelen	Hi Fred – I'm Gaelen. unilater HA, about to get Unilateral CI on the other side
Fred B.	Yes, I will surely sign on for that. Thanks.
Natalie	Yes, Kim, I just started in Suzuki book 4.
Br	View paste
 I'd remembered this guy at the start of our chat. It fits right in with what we were discussing. https://youtu.be/QDdU2xUs4XQ
	"He's a deaf professional musician ascribed to the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra since 1990. He learned to perceive the sound and pitch of the double bass and bow by vibration and developed a technique to play through the sense of touch."
Andrea S.	Yup but not going to happen because they are all going to RIC
Fred B.	I heard about it on Big Tent.
Wendy C.	Thanks Fred! Big Tent is sometimes so quiet I wonder if anyone is actually paying any attention to what I post
Andrea S.	Can't waterproof the receiver in the canal – it's an exposed wire.
Wendy C.	Where do you live, Fred?
	Andrea, but not everyone can use RIC
Gaelen	Is this Hector? I've been meaning to contact him.
Kimberly	Very good Natalie. Book 4 is my favorite book to teach. I always feel they start bk 4 still a beginner, but end bk 4 as a "real" player.
Andrea S.	True. Maybe they can/will waterproof fully BE again – that would be great.
Gaelen	have to step out. thanks for chatting!!
Fred B.	I live in Minneapolis/St. Paul area.
Wendy C.	when the hearing loss is so severe, and RIC is not recommend
Kimberly	Bye
Gaelen	has left the room
Wendy C.	Bye Gaelen!
Kimberly	What is RIC?
Wendy C.	RIC is receiver in the ear
	Receiver in the canal?
	Fred – I will be in town in June.
Andrea S.	Receiver in canal. As Wendy says – only for mild – moderate hearing loss
Kimberly	Ahh..like an ITE aid?
Wendy C.	I am attending the Hearing Loss Convnetion of America's annual convetion
	8:50 PM
Wendy C.	And giving a musical handchimes workshop there!

Andrea S.	No. The ha is behind your ear, just a receiver/wire in the canal.
Wendy C.	It will be captioned and they will have a hearing loop
Natalie	Kimberly, I felt like I knew something at the end of book 3. then got to book 4 and found myself back at Twinkle, playing-wise. it's a huge jump!
Br	You can crank RICs pretty high for bad losses, but the risk of feedback starts to increase.
Fred B.	I'm not a had chimes person but have fun!
Kimberly	Natalie, it is a big jump. But know that by the end of Bk 4, you actually know everything there is to play the violon. Everything after that is "icing on the cake"
Wendy C.	So Fred, since the convetnion is being held in your city, you should attend They have a lot of other workshops on living with hearing loss
	RIC is for mild hearing loss but the sound processing stuff is behind the ear?
Kimberly	How do assistive hearing devices work? What does it sound like?
Wendy C.	it is different from ITC (in the canal)?
	ALDs try to fill in where hearing aids fail.
Andrea S.	Brian – any idea what cause the "wavering" or "fluttering" sound with violin playing and high end HA? I've been told that it relates to feedback suppression or maybe noise suppression (HA thinks it is hearing feedback but it's not), but haven't heard a great explanation.
	There is fully in the canal, receiver in the canal, and fully behind the ear. The acronyms are confusing.
Br	Hmmm, I'm not sure. It could be the internal processing thinking "HEY! That's a loud sound that isn't speech. Better try to squash it".
Wendy C.	Kimberly, ALDs always require a receiver and a transmitter. You wear the receiver and whoever you are conversing with wears the transmitter
Andrea S.	Brian – yes. Overthinking!
Wendy C.	The person wearing the transmitter can be further away and you can still hear him and her beter than with hearing aids alone
Kimberly	Ahhh...similar to the rrally old front harness aids that I wore as a child..hated it. The teacher had a microphone..
	8:55 PM
Kimberly	I'm sure the tech is much better now then when I was 6...
Wendy C.	But today's ALDs are very small and discreet
	Yes they are discreet.
	And tech is better than 20 years ago!
Fred B.	I'm leaving now. See you on 4/28. Bye.
Fred B.	has left the room
Kimberly	So, let's say, I'm in church, and I have an ALD, would I put the transmitter say up at the podium?
Wendy C.	I use ALDs for music mostly
Kimberly	Bye
Wendy C.	Yes, Kimberly you put the transmitter up the podium, unless your church's sound system can handle the addition of an ALD
Kimberly	I have a tremendously difficult time hearing in church..the microphone systems and the room tend to make everything very echoy
Wendy C.	But churches ARE supposed to have ALDs
	If you like I can find which churches in Richmond have ALDs
Andrea S.	The Bluetooth microphones are excellent now too. Or even using an iphone as a mic. I have a streamer that is also a mic. Works form about 40 feet away, direct to my HA.
Br	You could. I heard a patient who was a singer talk about giving the conductor a wireless mic and possible the pianist as well? I don't remember. It may be that the one on the conductor picked up piano and sent that to his HAs.
	Kimberly, is there an induction loop at your church?
Wendy C.	The thing about ALDs most ALDs require that you have telecoil

	Brian, her current HA do not have telecoil
Kimberly	I think there is..but I honestly don't know how to use it
Andrea S.	And the mics require Bluetooth. :(
Br	Yeah, you need to T coil. Shoot.
Kimberly	I really know nothing about HA..even though I jave worn them since I was a child..
	I just wore whatever I was given..
Wendy C.	Induction loop require telecoil which is why I'm suggestion that Kim's next hearing aids have telecoil as well as bluetooth
Kimberly	I do have a tcoil in my left aid only
Wendy C.	Then I'll find out which church has an induction loop
Kimberly	But I never could get Tcoil to work well..I would just hear static
Br	What manufacture of HAs, Kimberly?
Wendy C.	mostly because they have not turned the loop on probably
	Oticon HA
Kimberly	Oticons. i don't know what model
Wendy C.	not sure of the model of Oticons
	9:00 PM
Wendy C.	If you hear static, most likely the church either has not turn the loop system on, or the ALD system is not induction loop
	It's 9:00 pm now
Kimberly	I've been in churches that announce that their HA assitive device is turned on..I would turn my T coil on and basically I couldn't hear the speaker..it was better without
Wendy C.	We'll meet again next month
	You need a receiver until they specifical say they have a loop system
Kimberly	Hahaha, ok. I'm going to investigate the ALD nore in my church.
Wendy C.	So is everyone ok with meeting at Sunday evening at 8, or do they prefer Fridays at 8?
	Sundays works out better for me
Br	https://www.oticon.com/support/wireless-listeni...
Andrea S.	Sunday is good.
Kimberly	Sunday is better for me too
Br	Sundays are good
Andrea S.	Thanks Wendy. Have a good week everyone.
Rochelle D.	Sun. good!
Br	Bye
Br	has left the room
Kimberly	Have a good week everyone. Thabk you Wendy.
	Bye
Rochelle D.	Bye everyone!
Wendy C.	to logoff – click on Sign out screen on the upper right corner
Rochelle D.	has left the room
Natalie	has left the room
Wendy C.	I mean click on the "sign out" link on the upper right corner
	And thank you for joining us Andrea
	Hope to see you again
	Kimberly, pm me the name of your church on Facebook messenger and we'll get to the bottom of this

Be right back

9:10 PM

Andrea S. has left the room

Kimberly has left the room

Wendy C. turned off guest access

9:30 PM

Wendy C. has left the room