

It's been a busy start to the new year at the Royal Academy of Music. In Symphony Orchestra we had Marin Alsop conducting the spectacular 'Ein Heldenleben' by Richard Strauss. We also had Trevor Pinnock conducting the St Matthew Passion by J.S. Bach with baroque instruments.

Outside these projects, the violists were visited by Thomas Selditz, who is a professor at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna. He came to the Academy for two days. I really enjoyed my lesson with him. He worked extensively on the idea of singing a phrase and relating how we play the viola with the natural tendencies of the human voice. During my lesson we also worked on not pressing into the strings too much. In ensuring that the bow contact was optimal he suggested a small method. Holding the bow, with the tip facing up, make a right angle from your elbow to the top of the bow. Then raise the bow from the elbow, whilst keeping the shoulder relaxed. This simple method helped me improve my tone and sound production drastically.

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