Intonation Exercise
Practicing at 40

- Here is the practice method to achieve accurate and reliable intonation:
- Set your metronome to MM = 40. Select a short phrase you want to practice.

1) Play one pitch, regardless of the printed rhythm (a sixteenth gets the same treatment as a whole note). Then wait one beat. Play the next pitch. This will establish the expectation for perfect intonation in your mind.

Use the rest between the notes to sing the next note in your head. If that is difficult, take extra beats and sing the next note out loud with your voice.

2) Play one pitch per beat, without rest.

3) Play the phrase with correct rhythm, still at MM = 40.

4) Speed up the metronome to MM = 60. Each new speed will present new challenges. Practice until the intonation is reliable at each speed. Add vibrato when you feel comfortable.

5) Speed up the metronome to MM = 80 etc., in increments of 20, until you reach concert speed.

6) Choose the next short phrase and repeat the process.

7) Spend 50% of your practice time on each piece with this method. Try it for one week. The results will be amazing.