

DYNAMICS – HOW TO MAKE THE 4 BASIC VOLUME LEVELS		
What is it	What to do	It feels like
1. <b>PIANO</b> ( <i>p</i> )	<b>USING</b> much less bow length and almost no pressure whatsoever. Playing it generally in the <b>UPPER HALF</b> of the bow using the lighter bow weight.	→ <b>TINY BOW</b> → <b>ALMOST NO PRESSURE</b> → <b>UPPER HALF OF BOW</b>
2. <b>MEZZO PIANO</b> ( <i>mp</i> )	<b>DEVELOPING</b> sensibility for this ‘hard to produce’ volume level – using more bow with little pressure – the effect is a quiet level with more sound ‘presence’. Thinking of it as a ‘concert level’ <i>piano</i> dynamic.	→ <b>MORE BOW</b> → <b>SOME PRESSURE</b> → <b>‘PROJECTING’ PIANO SOUND</b>
3. <b>MEZZO FORTE</b> ( <i>mf</i> )	Commonly mistaken as <i>f</i> but generally lacking <i>f</i> character, avoid getting stuck on it and thinking of ‘moving on’ generally to a louder level - <i>f</i> .	→ <b>GENEROUS BOW</b> → <b>‘COMFORTABLE’ PRESSURE</b> → <b>GETTING TO LOUDER SOUND</b>
4. <b>FORTE</b> ( <i>f</i> )	<b>PLAYING CONSTANTLY</b> in <i>f</i> is a challenge – our brain wants to relax bow pressure and speed too early and to go to a more ‘comfortable’ <i>mf</i> – make it a mission to playing out louder than you think.	→ <b>MORE GENEROUS BOW</b> → <b>EXAGGERATED PRESSURE</b> → <b>LOWER HALF OF THE BOW</b>

HAVE YOU LEARNED IT	Action Words / Task	PRACTICING LINK – GO TO:
1. <b>PIANO</b> ( <i>p</i> )	1. <b>USE TINY BOW</b> 2. <b>APPLY ALMOST NO PRESSURE</b> 3. <b>PLAY IN UPPER BOW HALF</b>	→ <b>PERFORMING SCALES &amp; ARPEGGIOS</b> → <b>PRACTICE THE SCALE IN THE 4 VOLUME LEVELS:</b> <i>p / mp / mf / f</i>
2. <b>MEZZO PIANO</b> ( <i>mp</i> )	1. <b>USE MORE BOW LENGTH</b> 2. <b>APPLY SOME PRESSURE</b> 3. <b>PLAY ‘CONCERT’ PIANO</b>	
3. <b>MEZZO FORTE</b> ( <i>mf</i> )	1. <b>GENEROUS BOW</b> 2. <b>‘COMFORTABLE’ PRESSURE</b> 3. <b>‘MOVE ON’ TO FORTE</b>	
4. <b>FORTE</b> ( <i>f</i> )	1. <b>MORE GENEROUS BOW</b> 2. <b>EXAGGERATED PRESSURE</b> 3. <b>LOWER BOW HALF</b>	

**REMEMBER**  
**THE DETAIL**  
**THE ACTION**  
**THE FEELING**