

Good Sound in a Cello Section:

PROBLEM: Fuzzy tone causes balance issues, leading to “the hand.”

“Hand” leads to lighter bows, leading to even fuzzier tone.

Downward spiral to NO TONE.

Short term - section frustration, loss of cello voice in that passage.

Long term - apathy, chronic underbalance, chronic poor tone.

SOLUTION: Break the cycle! Balance using good tone and listening.

Listen/feel CLEAR, TEXTURED tone, even in piano, or in accompaniment.

Focus on dynamics as energy, rather than volume.

Be QUALITATIVE rather than quantitative whenever possible.

LISTEN FOR BALANCE!

BLEND: Match each other, and PLAY!

Matching is visual! What part of bow? Which bow? How much? Other Details?

Then don't hide! Play so you can hear yourself, AND the section.

Please feel free to reach out to me anytime you have questions!

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