



**CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC  
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**MUF655  
RESEARCH PROJECT**

**USE OF EXPRESSIVE VIBRATO IN VIOLIN PLAYING:  
“LIEBESLEID” FROM OLD VIENNESE MELODIES BY FRITZ  
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## **ABSTRACT**

The expressive vibrato is important as it not only produce beautiful playing tone but also build better interpretation in a performance. It includes a deep understanding on the vibrato and how should player apply them. This research reports a comprehensive study on the use of expressive vibrato in violin playing and find the application of vibrato technique in the Liebesleid (F. Kreisler). The method that are used in this study is qualitative method which includes collecting, analysing and interpreting non-numerical data. A sheet music and video performances analysis are held to find the application of expressive vibrato throughout the piece. Resources include books, journal articles and theses/dissertations that are written in English starting from 1930 to 2019.

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## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Vibrato is an interpretative tool that musician create by repeating the changes of pitch to their voices or musical instruments. According to Bonaita (n.d), vibrato is a rapid pitch fluctuation of a sustained note, created by the finger's oscillatory movement on the string, modulating the fundamental frequencies. By using vibrato, string instrument players will able to convey more musical emotions in playing. The vibrato technique able to personalize violin sound, put intensity to dynamic range in phrasing and also imitating human singing voice. It also allows performers to give warmth and multiple choices of tonal colours to their performances. Without vibrato, Carl Flesch said that the violin sounds cold and arid (Flesch, 1930, p. 66).

Specifically in violin playing, violinist often use vibrato to demonstrate a dialogue or duet between different persons. For instance, in a performance about a duet between a male and women, violinist can imitate men voices by slowing down and widening the rate of their vibrato on the lower strings. While for women voices, they can narrow and move their fingers faster while playing on the higher register.

In the Romantic period, vibrato was used to show expressive phrases. Fritz Kreisler was very popular for his sweet tone and expressive phrasing in his violin playing. Besides his career as a violinist, he was also a well-known composer of his time. He composed mainly for violin and piano and also arranged many other composer works for violin performances. Since in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, most of his works was loved by violinists and other musicians too. Many of his works and arrangements are relatively short-piece, thus violinist often performed his music as an encore of a violin concerto or recital performances.

The Liebesleid, which Kreisler composed for violin and piano, containing a romantic but sorrow moods. Thus, it give the performer an opportunity to explore suitable type of vibrato which can uplift and shine the character of this lovely short-piece.