A photograph of Sharon Isbin, a woman with long, wavy brown hair, wearing a black long-sleeved top with cutouts and black pants. She is sitting on a blue, textured metal surface, playing an acoustic guitar. She is looking towards the camera with a slight smile.

# SHARON ISBIN'S MULTI-FINGER VIBRATO TECHNIQUE

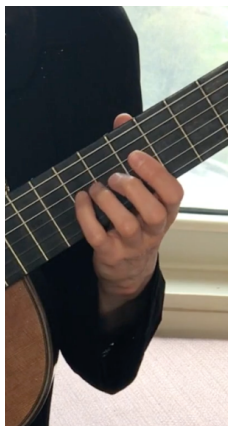
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# ESSENTIALS PRINCIPLES OF MULTI-FINGER VIBRATO

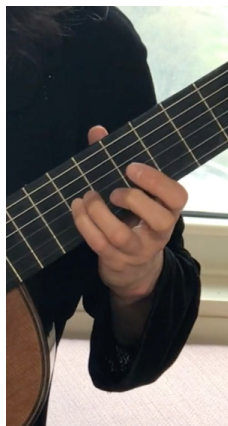
"I LIKE TO THINK OF VIBRATO AS INFUSING SOUL INTO THE ACTUAL NOTE"  
- SHARON ISBIN

## EACH FINGER CAN CREATE A UNIQUE VIBRATO

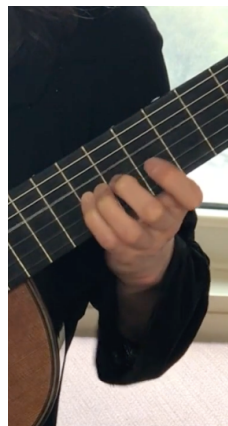
Try playing vibrato with just one finger, then add a second behind it, then the third, and finally try with all four fingers. As you add each finger notice the different sound it creates. Understanding these nuances will help you understand what your possibilities are when you interpret.



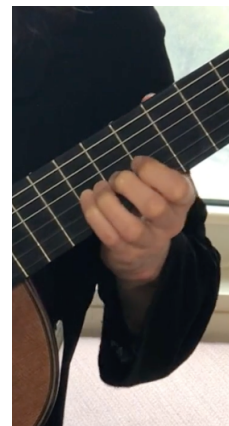
*1-finger  
vibrato*



*2-finger  
vibrato*



*3-finger  
vibrato*



*4-finger  
vibrato*

# ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES OF MULTI-FINGER VIBRATO



*Figure 1*



*Figure 2*

## MORE FRICTION GIVES YOU MORE CONTROL

For this particular technique, don't fan your fingers out as you see in *Figure 1*. Place them close together so that they are all touching like in *Figure 2*. This will give you the greatest friction to pull the string back and forth. Essentially to create vibrato, you must increase/decrease the string's tension. The more friction you have, the greater control you will have over your vibrato.

# ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES OF MULTI-FINGER VIBRATO

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## DIFFERENT STRINGS YIELD DIFFERENT SOUNDS

Experiment with playing the vibrato on different strings. You'll notice that the higher up you go on the neck, the more you can move the string. This will result in a more intense vibrato.

## VIBRATO SPEED MATTERS

Think about the speed of your vibrato when you are making interpretive choices. A very slow vibrato can sometimes sound a little bit like a wah-wah pedal. Consider experimenting with gradually increasing the speed of your vibrato after you play a note, this can create a crescendo-like effect!

Vibrato is a powerful technique that we can use to infuse life, passion, and soul into a note. Don't forget, just like any other technique, it takes practice to master!

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