

The Rognonis on bowing and slurring

Riccardo (1592)

- Usual to begin down-bow
- Small “groppetti” can be bowed either way up
- You can retake the bow when there is a crotchet in the middle of a quaver passage, or a quaver in the middle of semiquavers [presumably *after* the longer note]
- You can take 2 notes in one bow in order to play a long diminution “the right way round”

Note that Riccardo’s treatise, including the complete ornamented madrigals, doesn’t contain any printed slurs.

Francesco (1620)

- Slurring (“lireggiare”) means taking 2, 3 or more notes in a bow, even as many as 8 or 12.
- Practise it slowly and use wrist pressure
- “Affetuoso” slurring means a kind of slur that is pulsed with the wrist. This is hard to do well!

In the examples given in Bruce Dickey’s introduction to the Forni Editore facsimile, a slur on the violin seems to correspond to a group of tongued syllables beginning with a harder syllable on the cornett.

Francesco’s treatise contains a small scattering of short (2-note) slurs in his diminution examples, but plenty of longer slurs, including some marked “affetti” in his complete ornamented madrigals.