

ALL-STAR GUIDE TO IMPROVE YOUR PLAYING!

HOW TO PRACTICE MUSIC

1. STUDY THE MUSIC WITH YOUR EYES FIRST WITHOUT YOUR INSTRUMENT. - USE A PENCIL & FINGERING CHART
2. CHECK THE "ROADMAP": REPETES? DS, DC, CODA'S
3. CHECK THE KEY SIGNATURE & PAIRS OF NOTES- CHECK THE NOTES YOU MIGHT MISS AND MARK THEM!
"PAIRS OF NOTES" -WHICH NOTE IS IT?
FLUTES/OBOES/BASS CLEF INSTRUMENTS/MALLETS -CHECK THESE PAIRS: IS IT - Eb OR E; Ab OR A; D OR Db; Bb OR B
CLARINETS/TRUMPETS/T. SAX/BARITONE TC
- CHECK THESE: IS IT - B OR Bb; E OR Eb; C OR C#?
ALTO SAX/ BARI SAX
- CHECK THESE: IS IT - F OR F#; C OR C#; G OR G#; B OR Bb?
FRENCH HORNS:
- CHECK THESE: IS IT - B OR Bb; F OR F#; E OR Eb; A OR Ab?
PERCUSSION - WHAT RUDIMENTS CAN YOU SEE?
4. CHECK ALL RHYTHMS: CAN YOU COUNT (OUTLOUD), CLAP & FOOT TAP THEM?. WRITE IN THE COUNTING FOR ANY RHYTHMS YOU MIGHT MISS. SUBDIVIDE THE BEAT TO BE MORE ACCURATE!
5. PRACTICE FIRST WHAT YOU CAN NOT PLAY!! START SLOW AND WORK TO PLAY IT FASTER!!!

PLAYING MUSIC- NOT JUST NOTES

1. OBSERVE ALL DYNAMIC MARKS!
2. USE RISE & FALL (WHEN NOTES GO UP CRESC, DOWN DECREC)
3. PLAY ALL SOFT PARTS EVEN SOFTER!
4. PLAY OUT ALL THE LITTLE NOTES! (8TH, 16TH ETC)
5. THINK OF TONE: KEEP YOUR THROAT OPEN & BREATHE DEEP
6. PRACTICE VIBRATO: CHECK YOUTUBE TO LEARN HOW TO PERFORM ON YOUR INSTRUMENT. !

HOW TO AVOID MISTAKES

1. PLAY THE RIGHT NOTES IN TIME! LISTEN & WATCH!
2. LONG NOTES: HOLD FOR FULL VALUE! PUSH THE AIR!
3. RESTS: COUNT & PLAY THE RESTS!
4. TIED NOTES: COUNT AND HOLD FULL VALUE!!
5. DOTTED NOTES: COUNT & SUBDIVIDE
6. KEY CHANGES: CIRCLE THEM: CHECK NEW PAIRS OF NOTES
7. ACCIDENTALS: CHECK & MARK: THEY CARRY THROUGH THE MEASURE.
8. SLURRED OR TONGUED: MAKE THEM SOUND DIFFERENT!
9. ARTICULATION. HOW LONG/HOW SHORT.
10. ENTRANCES: BE READY, AIR READY: BE ON TIME.
11. RELEASES; END THE NOTE AT THE RIGHT TIME. DON'T CLIP ENDS OF PHRASES. WATCH & COUNT.
12. DYNAMIC MARKS AND RISE & FALL: MUST SHOULD ALWAYS GROW AND SHRINK. IT SHOULD NEVER BE THE SAME.
13. WATCH THE DIRECTOR!: YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE THE DIRECTOR & THE MUSIC AT THE SAME TIME. IF YOU CAN'T RAISE THE STAND.
14. TUNE EVERY NOTE! YOUR TONE IS SO IMPORTANT!! KNOW THE NOTES THAT ARE USUALLY OUT OF TUNE ON YOUR INSTRUMENT AND ADJUST THEM BEFORE YOU PLAY THEM! LISTEN ALL AROUND YOU AND MATCH YOUR SOUND!

STEPS TO GREAT TONE & INTONATION

1. KEEP YOUR INSTRUMENT WORKING! OIL, CLEAN, ETC.
2. WOODWIND: HAVE A GOOD REED AND ONE ALWAYS IN RESERVE.
3. SIT UP TALL: HEADS UP, BACK STRAIGHT!
4. BOTH FEET FLAT ON THE FLOOR: DON'T CROSS LEGS OR ANKLES
5. HAVE A GOOD FIRM EMOUCHURE: CLAR/SAX TOP TEETH ON TOP OF THE MOUTHPIECE
6. BREATHE VERY DEEPLY; THE TUMMY PUSHES OUT WHEN YOU BREATHE IN. PRACTICE JUST BREATHING! WORK ON LONG, SUSTAINED TONES 40+ SECONDS.
7. ADJUST YOUR PITCH TO THOSE AROUND YOU! ALWAYS LISTEN!!!!
8. WARM UP CORRECTLY: SLOW, LONG TONES & LIP SLURS
9. USE A TUNER WHEN POSSIBLE. PLAY THE PITCH AND MATCH IT. LOOK AT THE SCREEN TO DOUBLE CHECK.
10. LEARN WHAT NOTES ARE OUT OF TUNE ON YOUR INSTRUMENT AND FIX THEM BEFORE YOU PLAY THEM!

WHEN STARTING A PIECE OF MUSIC: BREATHE WITH THE DIRECTOR!! HAVE FUN & MAKE GREAT MUSIC