

HOW TO PRACTICE

When you get a new piece:

- 1) **Look up all the words**
- 2) **Listen to it**
- 3) **ONLY then, start practicing**

Practicing

This method can be applied to learning ANYTHING - break it down into small parts, learning each slowly, then gradually faster until mastered, and then putting the parts back together.

- 1) Figure out the pitches, write in any fingerings, accidentals, or anything else you need
- 2) Figure out the rhythms - count them.
- 3) Pick a small part, 1-2 measures.
- 4) Put the pitches and rhythms together EXTREMELY slowly
- 5) Work it out slowly until perfect
- 6) Play with a metronome at the same tempo
- 7) When perfect, move the metronome a bit (1-2 "clicks" or 5-10 beats per minute BPM)
- 8) Repeat until reliably perfect - *with a metronome*
- 9) Gradually repeat this until it is fast enough for this session, or you are done learning it.
- 10) Pick a new section and repeat steps 4-9
- 11) Stitch the smaller sections together into the larger piece.

You must always play perfectly what you are practicing, so play it slow and perfectly, until you can play it fast enough and perfectly. Playing fast and sloppy is almost as bad as not practicing.

Things that are NOT practice

- 1) Playing through pieces, especially large, unlearned sections
- 2) Trying to learn difficult passages without a metronome

Repetition is the key!

It will be frustrating at times, and that's OK - accept that and work it through slowly.