Practice Tips

Having trouble practicing? Try one of these ideas!

1. BACK IT UP: Try starting from the ending instead of the beginning! Work your way backwards by measure or group of notes.
2. CHANGE IT UP: Play around with tempo and dynamics to make your piece sound different. If a piece is fast and happy, try making it sound slow and sad!
3. RHYTHM FUN: Try playing only the rhythm of your piece! You could clap or even play it on a homemade drum.
4. SINGING: Try singing the melody of your piece! You will be surprised at how much this will help your playing!
5. REVERSE IT: For a scale passage, try playing it backwards perfectly at a slow tempo. Then play as written.
6. FOCUS ON DYNAMICS: Every time there is a dynamic marking in your piece, play 2 measure before it and 2 measures after it. Listen to see if you could hear the dynamic change. If not, try it again listening and changing dynamics even more carefully!
7. RED LIGHT/GREEN LIGHT: If you miss a note, STOP! Go back one measure, and play the section slowly. Once you can play it slowly, play it perfectly at tempo three times. Then, move forward with the piece!
8. HOW FAST CAN YOU GO: Start a small section slowly, then little by little speed the section up. See how fast you can go, then go back to playing at the normal tempo!
9. RELAXING TIME: Play at a normal tempo up until a difficult spot. Right before this spot, take a second to relax, then begin at that spot!
10. ADD-A-NOTE: In a difficult section, add one note at a time. Begin with one note, then play two notes, then continue until you can play the whole section perfectly!

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