

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!

