

Practice Tips

“You are your own teacher”

Time:

- Set aside 30 minutes of uninterrupted practice time.
- 5-7 days a week will achieve excellent results.
- 4 days a week will achieve OK results.
- 3 days a week will achieve poor results.
- 2 or less is not expectable.

Environment:

- Good lighting to read the music.
- Music stand.
- Good chair, not the side of the bed.
- Location that will lend itself to good concentration.

Helpful Tools:

- Metronome – Online: www.metronomeonline.com, or a phone app.
- Tuner – Chromatic Tunes (Korg) or a phone app.
- Recording - video recorder or a phone app.
- Play for family and friends that visit the house.
- Pencil and a highlighter. Don't be afraid to use it.
- Musical Terms Sheet or a music dictionary.

Rewards:

- After the concert treat – go out for dinner, ice cream...
- Special present related to a successful music effort.
- Rewards for practice – One dollar, perform for your school talent show, church offertory or other events...

Getting it right:

- Go over the piece and identify the difficult parts.
- Consider: is it fingerings?, bowings?, tonguing?, pitches?, rhythms?... then practice towards that goal.
- Hard fingering – go back and forth between the two notes, like a teeter-totter.
- Set a slow speed on the metronome and make it perfect, then move the metronome to the next faster setting – write it down in your Practice Log.
- Go over the piece and enjoy the progress you have made.

Things to remember:

- Anything good takes time and patience, but the results are VERY satisfying.
- Be kind to yourself when going for excellence - take it slow and steady!