

Rehearsal Techniques

Rhythm

- Getting it right
 - Write in counting.
 - Clap and count.
 - Use words or rhythm syllables instead of metrical counting.
 - Play the subdivisions (four quarter notes instead of a whole note, etc.).
 - Play notes in the rests.
- Getting it together
 - Write someone else's rhythm above your part.
 - One person claps (beat or rhythm) while the others play.
 - Only players with the same rhythm play.

Practice tip: Work backwards. Get the last measure together. Then the last two measures.

Intonation

- Warm up with a scale.
- Tune key spots.
 - Cadences
 - Octaves and unisons
- Play at half speed.
- Use a tuner to get the right notes, and then listen to how the notes blend.

Expression

- Dynamics
 - Find and number ten levels of loud and soft. Write in which levels you want.
 - Practice transitions from one dynamic level to another.
 - Find climaxes of phrases.
- Match!
 - Vibrato
 - Articulation
 - Dynamics
 - Style

Practice tip: Take turns being the leader. Everyone has to match the leader.

Instrument tips:

- ◆ Strings: Experiment with and match bow speed, weight, and placement (bridge/fingerboard) to get dynamics and matching tone color.
- ◆ Winds: Experiment with and match air speed and direction to get dynamics and matching tone color.

Rehearsal Techniques

Ensemble

- Precision
 - Play notes pizzicato or staccato to hear whether they start together.
 - Breathe together.
 - Anticipate – don't follow!
 - Strings and pianists mark in where winds breathe so they cut off together.
- Balance
 - Write in who has melody and make it come out.
 - Some students “ghost” while others play normally.

Tools for bringing out melody: dynamics, articulation, tone

- Working together
 - Play with backs to each other to encourage listening.
 - Plan spots to look at each other (beginnings and ends of phrases, phrases you play with someone else).
 - Practice looking up every measure or line.
 - Play a game to see who can look up the most.
 - Practice cuing.

Cuing Tips

Know who is cuing.

Try moving together.

Cue in character.

At beginning, make sure others are watching.