

Guidelines on How To Learn a New Piece of Music

Suggestions by
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- 1 Focus on Sound:** Play a medium-long tone on each note of the first phrase of the piece. A few seconds on each note is fine.
 - Check your key signature, and make sure that you play the correct pitches.
 - Produce your best possible tone quality.
 - Play the dynamics that are written.
- 2 Focus on Rhythm:** Clap and count the rhythm of the first phrase.
 - Use your metronome and clap and count at a tempo at which you will play the phrase on your instrument. Think ahead and take it slow!
 - Tap your foot to the beat of the metronome.
 - If the rhythms are complicated, write the names of the beats and the subdivisions of the beat.
 - Go through this process several times until it is effortless and accurate.
- 3 Focus on Rhythm:** Play the rhythm of the first phrase on one pitch. Any pitch will do -- usually the first note of the phrase is a good one to select.
 - Play along with your metronome, at the same tempo that you clapped the rhythms. Make sure to play the correct dynamics.
 - Tap your foot to the beat of the metronome.
 - Go through this process several times until it is effortless and accurate.
- 4 Focus on Melody:** Play the rhythm of the first phrase with the written pitches.
 - Play along with the metronome, at the same tempo you clapped the rhythms. If it is too fast to play the notes and rhythms accurately, then slow down a bit. Tap your foot to the beat of the metronome!
 - Go through this process several times until it is effortless and accurate.
- 5 Focus on Form:** Follow these steps with each phrase of the piece and then put all of the phrases together.
 - Once you have learned the music accurately, you can gradually speed it up, if necessary.