

How to Effectively Practice a Solo

Many times student will spend endless hours practicing their solo material and become frustrated because their practice time has not produced the results that they expected. This, in many cases, is caused by poor practice habits or practicing the wrong material in an incorrect manner. For that reason, I have put together this material which will illustrate how your time and energy might be saved as well as indicate a more effective routine to follow when preparing for a performance.

Guidelines while practicing your material-

- Don't waste time on things you can already play.
- Don't avoid material you cannot play.
- Isolate the difficult passages and concentrate on them.
- Make your practice time work for you, not against you.
- Go beyond the difficulty of the passage and *really* learn it.
- Each time you play your material correctly, you have a greater chance of getting it correct on the stage.
- When you begin to practice, set a goal for that practice period.
- When you're finished with your practice session, check to see if you accomplished your goal for that day.
- Get in the habit of setting and reaching your goals.
- Do not just put in your time; make sure you accomplish something every day.
- Once you have gained the ability to play each passage correctly 10 times in a row, then memorize the section and try to play it 10 times in a row from memory.
- As you are playing each section from memory, try to visualize the notes as you play them.
- Once you are able to perform every section of your solo perfectly 3 times in a row and then start memorizing it, section by section.
- Once you have memorized your solo and you can play it perfectly 3 times in a row, you are in good shape for your performance

How to use the practice sheet with the accompanying solo-

The solo which I have selected as our practice material is a well known piece written by Guillaume Balay. Before you begin to learn this piece, you need to get your own copy of this solo. You can order it at- http://www.sheetmusicplus.com/title/Petite-Piece-Concertante/1413213#sneak_peak

I have selected the most challenging sections of this number and have printed these passages out so that you can easily recognize the difficult sections and gradually develop the confidence you will need to play this piece in public. **Notice that I have indicated that you play each line four times.** This is to be done each day until you have all of the lines mastered. In addition to isolating each passage, I have written variations on each passage so that you will more effectively learn every line. In some cases, I have removed a tie which will illustrate the proper rhythm to be played i.e. #7, 12, 13 and 16. Some passages have been rewritten so that you can more easily understand the effect required, i.e. #5. I have also added additional notes and note patterns to help you learn certain passages, i.e. # 8 and 10.

With careful attention to each and every note, you will soon learn how to spend your practice time in the most effective way. Practicing has never been fun so let's try to make it as efficient as we can.

Petite Piece Concertante

from the library of the Branson Trumpet Ensemble

Practice Sheet

(4X each line)

Guillaume Balay

Trumpet in Bb

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

Petite Piece Concertante

33
9

37
10

41
11

45
12

49
13

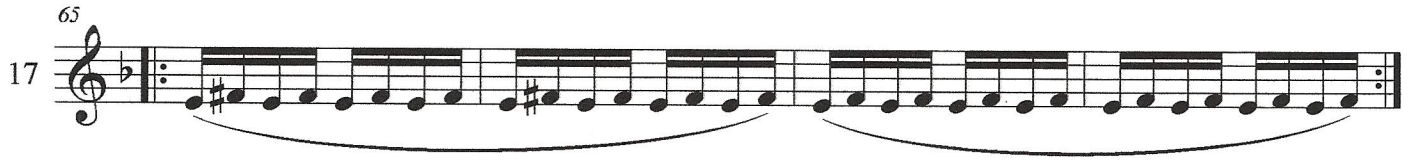
53
14

57
15

61
16

Petite Piece Concertante

65
17



69
18



73
19



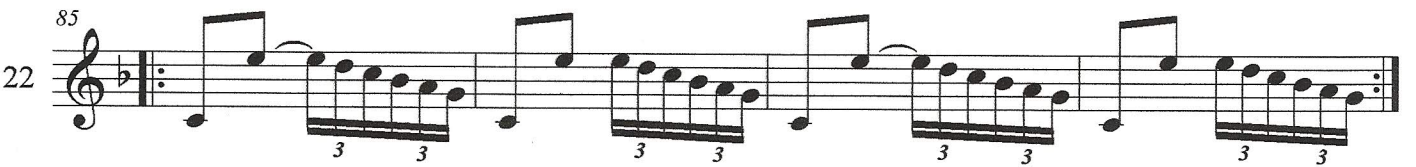
77
20



81
21



85
22



89
23

