

TWO DAY PRACTICE CYCLE

Instructions For Organizing Music

- 1) Make a master list:
 - List every piece, etude, and scale currently being practiced. Some students add dates of upcoming performances.
 - List movements individually.
 - Experiment with dividing longer etudes or movements in half.
 - Write down approximate timings for every piece of music.
- 2) Divide this master list in half and rewrite into two columns called Column A and Column B:
 - Begin each column with most difficult, new and/or soon to be performed works.
 - Split difficult, medium and easier rep equally between both columns.
 - Try to make both lists equal in amount of time.
 - When I am in a Two Day Practice Cycle, my preference is to shorten my warm-ups in order to allow enough time to finish the cycle. Some students prefer to maintain a lengthier warmup. It all depends on time and fatigue.
- 3) Determine total practice time for the day. If you have more time on a particular day, feel free to add a piece or incorporate more practice time on a difficult or new work.
- 4) Assign approximate practice time for each work.

Instructions for Practicing

Day 1:

Practice Column A music in detail as planned.

Read through music in Column B slowly, avoiding any mistakes. If new music is included, read extremely slowly and without mistakes. (If you are making mistakes, slow down more.)

Day 2:

Practice Column B music in detail as planned.

Read through music in Column A as above.

Sample Master List

___Mozart Concerto, mvt. 1 first half
___Mozart Concerto, mvt. 1 second half
___Beethoven Sixth Symphony, mvt. 1
___Beethoven Sixth Symphony, mvt. 2
___Beethoven Sixth Symphony, mvt. 3-4

___Scales-D Major and b minor-Jetli version
___Rose Etude No. 3 first half
___Rose etude No. 3, second half
___Tonguing exercises - Kell

SAMPLE TWO DAY PRACTICE CYCLE

Column A – Day One

Total daily available practice time 2.5 hours

Time (minutes)

40 Mozart K.622 mvt.1, 2nd half

10 Mozart mvt. 1 2nd half review

10 Beeth. 6, mvt. 1-2

15 Beeth. 8, mvt. 3

15 D Major Scale – Jettl version

15 Rose Etude no. 3, first half

15 Tonguing exercises - Kell

30 Play slowly through Column B

Column B – Day Two

Total daily available practice time 3 hours

Time

50 Mozart K. 622 mvt. 1, 1st half

10 Mozart mvt. 1 1st half review

15 Beeth. 6, mvt. 3-4

15 Beeth. 8, mvt. 3

15 b minor – Jettl version

15 Rose Etude no. 3, second half

30 Tonguing exercises – Kell

30 Play slowly through Column A

Ideas:

Extra time at end? Review difficult sections, practice sight-reading.

Use a timer to get through lists.

This is a flexible document. Reassess regularly: change works, timings, order of music as you like.

Resist the urge to focus on one work to exclusion of others, except in extraordinary circumstances.

Feel free to jump between works but with total times in mind.

For recently learned music, I recommend half tempo run-throughs.

TWO DAY PRACTICE CYCLE TEMPLATE

Master List

Two Day Practice Cycle

Column A – Day One

Total practice time_____

Time

Column B – Day Two

Total practice time_____

Time