



PRACTICE FLOWCHART

Finding and Fixing the Problem



IDENTIFY A MEASURE OR PHRASE THAT IS GIVING YOU TROUBLE

Use a small amount of music at a time for this process.

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO FIX IT?

Yes?-Great! Do it!

No?-Keep going.

BREAKDOWN THE MUSIC TO MAKE IT SIMPLER

By notes-Make an exercise by simplifying the pitches. For example, play only every other sixteenth or eighth note in a passage for double its length in order to play the skeletal outline of a phrase.

By rhythm-Make an exercise by simplifying the rhythm. For example, play two even eighth notes instead of a dotted eighth and sixteenth or eliminate a grace note.

CAN YOU SING THE PHRASE?

No?-Fix that, stat!

Yes?-Keep going.

BUILD BACK UP TO THE WRITTEN MUSIC FROM THE EXERCISES YOU MAKE

FILL IN THE MUSIC TO MAKE IT SIMPLER

With notes- Make an exercise by adding scalar pitches to large leaps. Work through the leap up or down by systematically enlarging the leaps from scalar to thirds to fifths and so on.

With subdivisions-Make an exercise by adding subdivisions for complex rhythms. For example, play three sixteenth notes for the length of a dotted eighth.

CHANGE THE RANGE TO MAKE IT EASIER

Move the music up or down into a more comfortable range.

This will help you increase your familiarity with the notes and phrasing, without straining your technique.

ASK THE FIVE WHY'S

Identify a problem or mistake and ask "why?" until you can't anymore.

This final answer is your **Root Problem**.

Form a hypothesis for why the problem occurred and try some solutions. Naming a specific problem gives you power to work on improving!

MORE IDEAS

Don't play your music from start to finish exactly as it is written, over and over again.

Go straight to the problem spots and break them apart in order to get the best use of your time.

Practice slowly for a longer time than you think you need before you speed up. Otherwise you will find a tempo that you can't get past and will have to slow back down again and do it over.



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