

Practice Steps

1. FIRST DAY ONLY! Run through the piece using sight-reading tips. While playing note any difficult spots.

Sight Reading Tips:

Look at the key signature, time signature, hand position & moves, tempo markings. Find the highest and lowest note, fastest type of rhythm, loudest and softest spots, and the road map. (Repeats, D.C., D.S. al fine)

2. Count and clap, count and tap, say note names, finger. Start slow and get gradually faster – a metronome may be helpful here. Mark with pencil difficult rhythms and notes. Look up fingerings if necessary.
3. Work one phrase at a time, or smaller segments. Start slow and gradually work to performance tempo. Do not go on to next phrase until it's all worked out at performance tempo and you can play it three times in a row perfectly. Mark notes/rhythms with pencil where needed.
4. Play the entire piece BUT if you make a mistake go back to the beginning. If you continue to not make it through, repeat steps 2 and 3.
5. Once a week, perform the piece. Play for a friend, family member, or even a stuffed animal. Go straight through without stopping. Think forwards rather than backwards. You can even practice bowing.