

Putting the Music First

A guide to practicing

Get back to **ENJOYING** making music in practice session

- 1. Typical approaches to practicing (scared v. prepared)**
 - a. Young students, advanced pre-college, college, personal experience
 - b. Deadline oriented or open-ended

- 2. Making decisions – what, how**
 - a. Style
 - b. Tempo
 - c. Tone color
 - d. Stroke

- 3. Setting the priorities – top down, bottom up?**

- 4. Decoding thorny passages**
 - a. Rhythmic variation
 - b. Hand isolation
 - c. Creative improvisation on a small idea

- 5. Putting your “problem spots” in context**

- 6. Creating “flow” in your practice (proactive v. reactive)**
 - a. What is reactive practice?
 - b. Positive wording – what that means
 - c. Proactive: goal/execution/reflection/assessment

- 7. Examples from the real world, several playing levels**