

#1 - STUDY AND MARK YOUR MUSIC

SONG _____

PITCHES-

Key Signature- _____ Flats (b) **OR** _____ Sharps (#) **OR** _____ None
(Which Notes?) (Which Notes?)

New Notes- _____ None _____ Yes (name them here _____)

Range- The lowest note is _____ The highest note is _____

Patterns- Describe _____ (measure numbers _____)

Melodic Contour – draw it (some or all) below. _____

_____ all **OR** (measures _____)

RHYTHMS & TEMPO-

Time Signature- _____ How many beats in a measure? _____

Tempo- _____ In English- _____

Ties- _____ No _____ Yes (measure numbers _____)

I see: _____

Other: _____

ARTICULATION-

Slurs- _____ None _____ 2note _____ 3note _____ note (measure numbers _____)

Accents- _____ None _____ Yes (measure numbers _____)

Other? _____ (measure numbers _____)

MUSICALITY-

Dynamics- Which ones do you see?

_____ ff _____ f _____ mf _____ mp _____ p _____ pp

If you see a crescendo or decrescendo, you should darken it or circle it.

Are there any clues about the spirit or character of this pieces from its title ?

_____ No _____ Yes

If you answered “yes,” write any key words that will help you remember the spirit or character:

#2 - MAKE IT PHYSICAL

PITCHES

(There are two separate steps for PITCHES)

1-Look up fingerings and try playing any new notes.

2-Finger through the entire section without thinking about rhythm.

Finger any particularly awkward passages or finger switches several times.

RHYTHMS & TEMPO

Say the rhythms using syllables such as "Tah" and "Ti-Ti"

Tap your heel to a slow, steady beat while you speak.

COMBINE FINGERING WITH RHYTHMS

Finger the notes in rhythm. Go slowly.

Continue to say the syllables and tap.

Make sure your fingers move with the rhythms.

It's likely that you'll need to repeat this step several times.

ADD ARTICULATION

Once again finger the notes in rhythm again and now add things like "Tah-ah" to practice the slurs.

Use a stronger "T" syllable for accented notes.

ADD MUSICALITY

One last time finger the notes in rhythm, speaking the syllables and demonstrating the articulation. This time add dynamic changes and stylistic details.

#3 - PLAY IT

Pick a steady beat that is **slower** than you think is appropriate.

Imagine how the first measure or two will sound before starting.

Look ahead while you play and try not to stop until the end of the section.

EVALUATE YOUR FIRST ATTEMPT. Consider each element separately

REPEAT THE STEPS that you think will help your next performance.

Practice with specific goals in mind.

DEFINITIONS:

Accidentals – flats (b) sharps (#) and naturals () that are found in the body of the music. They change the key signature for the measure in which they appear.

Articulation- tonguing and slurring.

Dynamics – Volumes.

p= piano (quiet)

m= mezzo (moderate/medium)

f= forte (strong/loud)

Crescendo- gradually louder

Decrescendo- gradually quieter

Key Signature – flats or sharps that appear at the beginning of a piece. The flats or sharps affects all the notes of a particular letter name. (such as All Fs are sharp or all Bs are flat)

Melodic contour – the shape (highs and lows) of a melody.

Range – the difference between the highest and lowest pitches.

Style – expressive elements such a note length (staccato/legato) and accents.

Tempo – the speed of the steady beat

Andante- a slow but comfortable speed

Moderato- A medium speed

Allegro- Fast

Presto- Very Fast

Time Signature- The time signature is found at the beginning of a piece and tells how many beats are in a measure and what kind of note gets one beat. 4/4 is an example.

Notes for percussionists:

Substitute either “sticking” or “touching the bars” for “fingerings.”

Tips on marking notes, articulations, and expressive instructions:

- * Use a pencil so you can change or erase marks. Keep your marks small and neat.
- * Don't mark everything. A few markings will stand out, but too many make it hard to focus on the important things.
- * Mark fingerings, articulations, etc. on or above the notes when possible.

Tips on marking rhythms:

- *Mark the beats and subdivisions where you change notes in large print and mark the subdivisions and beats where you're holding a note in smaller print. Circle the counting for rests.
- *Mark rhythms below the notes.