How Should I Practice My Music? Follow These Steps!

J Kitchell, 2017

START!

Ask Yourself:
The most important thing I need to practice right now is...
Which piece?
Which measures?

Or...

What skills do I need to work on?
Bowing, articulations, finger patterns, dynamics, tempo...

CAN YOU PLAY IT?

NO

YES

Think about which practice strategies would best help you reach your goals:

- Slow down
- Chunk it (repeat one measure)
- Clap it and count it
- Say notes names
- Bridge or elbow bow
- Other? _____

Identify and Isolate the exact spot where you are having trouble

Go through the music in SMALL bits, using the strategies you chose before.

YOUR GOAL: Play the tiny bit FIVE times. PERFECTLY.

Can You Play It Perfectly Five Times?

NO

YES

SLOW DOWN MORE. TRY A NEW STRATEGY.

Can You Play It Perfectly Five Times?

YES

NO

Put that small bit back into context, and go through until you can play the entire section FIVE times. PERFECTLY.

YES

GREAT!

Go back to ***Start,*** and work on the next item!

****DON'T FORGET ABOUT POSTURE!****