

New Music Checklist

What to do when you get a new piece of music

Name: _____ Piece: _____ Date: _____

1 Look at the music before you play

Check these first:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Title of the piece | <input type="checkbox"/> Dynamics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Key signature | <input type="checkbox"/> Articulations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Time signature | <input type="checkbox"/> Repeats / endings / D.C. / Coda |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tempo marking | <input type="checkbox"/> Accidentals |

This piece looks:

- Easy Medium Challenging

2 Find the spots that may cause trouble

Mark anything that looks difficult:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tricky rhythm | <input type="checkbox"/> High notes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New note or fingering | <input type="checkbox"/> Low notes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accidentals | <input type="checkbox"/> Tonguing / articulation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large skips or leaps | <input type="checkbox"/> Dynamic changes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fast passage | |

Measures to watch: _____

3 Count before you play

- I clapped or said the rhythm
 I counted out loud
 I checked where the beat goes

If I cannot count it, I am not ready to play it well yet.

4 Play it slowly first

- I started slower than written tempo
 I focused on correct notes and steady counting
 I used good tone
 I did not rush to full speed

5 Fix small sections

- I stopped at the problem spot
 I worked on only 1–2 measures
 I repeated it correctly, then connected it back

Do not keep restarting from the beginning.

6 Add the music, not just the notes

- I played the correct dynamics
 I followed articulations
 I watched for phrase shape and matched style

7 Use a metronome if needed

- I checked my tempo
 I practiced difficult parts slowly
 I only sped up after playing it correctly

8 Reflect

- I know the hardest part
 I know what to practice next
 I improved at least one section today

Top 3 practice spots:

1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

Quick Rule

Look. Mark. Count. Slow down. Fix small parts. Then make it musical.