Practice Strategies by Category & Making Adjustments

Take It Out of Context / Element Elimination

- Alter the tempo
- Skip directly to a difficult section
- Sizzle and finger the notes adhering to dynamics and articulation
- Play a passage or entire selection in straight quarter notes while only focusing on pitch and fingering.
- Take out the articulation; alter the rhythm to increase or lesson challenge
- Play it backwards
- Mental practice

Thoughtful Repetition

- Repeat one measure, small sections, or from beginning to end
- Chaining / Whole Part Whole
- Use the Metronome Effectively
  - Know where the pulses fall in each measure
  - Understand what note value receives the beat
  - Set the metronome either to the pulse or a subdivided pulse
- Woodshedding

Make It Musical

- Experiment with dynamics, tone color, tempo variation
- Create phrasing by exploring expressive articulation, dynamics, varied tone
- Explore numerous ways to speak a musical sentence or sequence of thoughts


1. Always slow things down
2. If you take it out, put it back
3. Don’t go from zero to sixty
   a. Always proceed gradually
   b. Slow then gradually faster
   c. When taking elements out, put them back one by one
   d. When woodshedding, vary the starting spot
4. Use repetition with thoughtful intent
5. Use pauses: “what are you thinking and what you are focusing on”