

# 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

## **Making Adjustments Along the Way . . . “The 5 Rules of the Road”**

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”