

Trumpet Solo Class Lecture #3

“How to Practice”

Dr. Mark Ponzo

Practice sessions

Warm up/Routine
Review/Etude Material
New Literature

Schedule your time

Practice in short (1-1 ½ hour) blocks
Spread out your sessions through out the day
Be careful to avoid concentrated practice when you are tired
Warm up before your classes start

Technique Sheet

List all the aspects of playing
Address specific elements each day, alone or in combination
Keep track of everything that you practice

Literature Sheet

New material - lesson assignment
Convocation/Recital materials
Ensemble music
Keep track of lesson/convocation/recital/performance responsibilities

What to Consider when you Practice

Once you have a plan of when to practice and what to practice, you must determine which elements you are going to focus on during each segment of your practice.

Musical analysis leads to a better understanding of the techniques required to play the piece and the composer's intent.

Develop your own technical exercises to overcome musical requirements.

Use a metronome, tuner and tape recorder each day.

Have a clear outline of what you want to accomplish and how to do it. Set small goals, achieve them and then the process of practicing will be more rewarding.

Do not practice by watching the clock. Try to work in blocks of time, not in the number minutes.