

ORCHESTRA 101: Learning and Practicing Excerpts for Performances and Auditions*

Maryanne's Best Advice:

1. Know the original part even if you are playing from an edition.
2. The score is your friend- reach out to her often! Explore imslp.org
3. Listen, listen, listen... to more than one recording!
4. Consistently play the correct tempo. Fun tool: jog.fm
5. Be yourself! Infuse your excerpts with your unique personality & sound.

**why is there a difference between learning an excerpt for a performance or for an audition??*

Maryanne's Favorite Practice Methods:

1. Blocked chords
 2. Segmented arpeggios
 3. Chords: "add-a-note" method
 4. Alternate rhythms
 5. The old "place and stop"
 6. Using the metronome; counting out loud
 7. "Race pace intervals"
 8. Pedals alone; naming pedals aloud while playing
 9. Turning tricky passages into stand-alone exercises
- Bonus concept: Find the smallest problem and fix it!*

Maryanne's Least Favorite Practice Method: Record Yourself!

Say it with me: "I, (state your name), pledge to record myself playing one piece this month."

The Usual Suspects: 10 Most Common Audition Excerpts:

1. Tchaikovsky, Nutcracker cadenza
2. Tchaikovsky, Swan Lake cadenza
3. Berlioz, Symphonie Fantastique
4. Britten, Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra
5. Bartok, Concerto for Orchestra
6. Ravel, Tzigane
7. Stravinsky, Symphony in Three Movements
8. Debussy, La Mer
9. Strauss, Salome
10. Ravel, Alborada Del Gracioso

The Usual Suspects: Required Solos/Concertos on Audition Lists:

1. Mozart, Concerto for Flute and Harp (1st movement)
2. Ravel, Introduction and Allegro
3. Debussy, Danse Sacree et Profane
4. Handel, Harp Concerto