

# Structuring Your Practice Time

*Every successful musical individual and ensemble got that way by adhering to a rigorous and structured practice routine. Read the tips below so you can start developing a practice routine that works for you...*

## **Finding the time...**

- Practicing is easier if each day has a designated practice time. It helps if this time is the same each day.
- Practicing can easily replace excessive TV watching, computer usage, phone time, texting, etc. Cutting back on these will increase available practice time.
- Practice in the car on the way to and from school.
- Practice in the Music Room before school, after school, during break, or lunch.

## **Motivation...**

- Although practicing should be done daily, it is always easier if you enjoy what you're doing – HAVE FUN! And play music you enjoy.
- Alternate between hard and easy material so you don't get "bogged down."
- Reward yourself. After a good practice session, allow yourself time to relax, talk on the phone, or watch TV.
- **Parents:** Encourage your son/daughter to practice, but avoid making it a chore.
- **Parents:** Give incentives for regular practice.
- **Parents:** Find a private lessons teacher for your son/daughter

## **Your practice environment...**

- Your practice area should be free of distractions and well lit
- Use a chair and a music stand.

## **What to do (and what NOT to do)...**

- Always practice with a metronome
- Take difficult passages/exercises slow
- Break hard passages down into smaller more manageable parts.
- Practice with a buddy; take turns listening to each others' progress