



The Art and Craft of Clarinet Playing

Dr. Julia Heinen

Professor of Clarinet, California State University, Northridge

Daily Practice Plan

- Intention
- Warming Up
- Slow 19th Century Etudes
- Technical Passages that Need Attention
- Complete Sections, Movements, Entire Works
- Score Study
- Listening
- Reflection with Journal
- Rest

Intention

- Review notes from previous day.
- What do I want to accomplish today?
- What is my specific plan for each section of my practice?

Warming Up

- Long Tones
- Diatonic Scales
- Scales in Thirds
- Arpeggios
- Tonguing
- Contemporary Techniques

19th Century Slow Etudes

- Breath Control
- Phrasing
- Dynamic Inflections
- 3-5 Minutes of Consecutive Playing
- Listening while Playing

Complete Sections, Movements or Pieces

- Putting into Context Technically and Musically
- Endurance for Performance
- Flow of Entire Work (or Entire Program)

Score Study

- “Hearing” the Entire Work
- Do my musical choices make sense with the other part(s)?
- Knowing the entire work and not just my part?
- Do I know where the silences are? Am I honoring them?

Listening

- Hearing and internalizing what others do?
- Exposing myself to new timbres, interpretations, timing, and hearing “whole”
- How do professionals sound doing this work? Other works?
- What other works does this composer have? Is this work “typical?”

Reflection with Journal

- What did I accomplish today?
- What did I not accomplish today?
- What are my thoughts for my plan tomorrow?
- What are my thoughts on my plan for the rest of the week?
- What are my long-term plans?
- Visualize upcoming performances, rehearsals, practice sessions.

Rest

- Allow time for your brain to organize what it worked on today.
- Allow the music you practiced and listened to become part of you.
- Let your subconscious work on the art and the craft.

"Practice" being an artist! It Makes Practicing Fun!

For further questions and comments contact:

Julia Heinen

at

julia.heinen@csun.edu