

6-7 Steps to Learn Any Piece (No Matter How Hard)

0. Explore It - Listen and look through the music to identify key sections and challenges.

- Simply familiarize yourself with the piece as a whole
- Maybe make slashes between sections and star anything that seems challenging

1. Chunk It - Identify a small enough passage that you can attend to all the details.

- As small as needed. If it is too big you won't notice all the mistakes/opportunities
- Ideally at least one Musical Word
 - complete musical idea
 - connected to the beat

2. Learn It - Develop a clear internal audiation of how the music should go.

- Clap, count, and sing
- Understand rhythm and note patterns
- Include style details (dynamics, articulation, phrasing, etc.) as early and thoroughly as possible
- The clearer your audiation the better everything will be! "If you can't hear it, you can't play it"

3. Fix It - Do, reflect, and plan to fix mistakes and pursue opportunities for improvement.

- Deliberate Practice = Do, Reflect, Plan (this applies the scientific process to solve any problem)
- Reflect deeper until a Plan becomes self-evident, and then Do that Plan and repeat the process

4. Train It - Rep with a good balance of challenge and control to grow your coordination.

- Contextual Interference = Mix things up to produce desirable difficulty
- Flow State = Full immersion through balancing difficulty (this is where maximum learning happens)
- Like growing muscles, need challenge without losing control/form/accuracy

5. Test It - Make sure you can play it cold because you don't get warm-up reps in a performance.

- Spacing = Playing one rep with a period of forgetting in between
- Slow is fine, gradually increase time between reps and the speed will come

6. Perform It - Play straight through without stopping, while staying focused on each moment.

- Don't forget to work the transitions between chunks
- Gradually put together larger chunks until you can do the whole piece
- Orienting Selective Attention = Staying focused on what you need to (this is the key to performing well)

7. Grow (optional) - Reflect on fundamental clarinet deficiencies and make a plan for long-term improvement.

- Select targeted warm-ups and do them with very mindful attention to the quality of clarinet playing

Questions?

Contact Josh Goo at quickstartclarinet@gmail.com or search YouTube for "QuickStart Clarinet [Your Question]"