

PATRICIA SPENCER'S PRACTICE-TECHNIQUES

Hello all - this is just to share a fun list that was developed in discussion at the Now and Present Flute Seminar:

(variety helps keep the musical spark)

Thirteen Ways of Learning Technical Passages

1 - Play very slowly and precisely; gradually increase speed (one digit up on the Metronome). 1a - Alternate playing half tempo, then tempo; again half tempo, then tempo; etc.

2 - The seven usual practice rhythms (plus others if they seem to help):

(dotted rhythms, etc.)

3 - SING IT!

4 - Additive clumps: notes 1-2, 2-3, 3-4/ then 1-2-3, 2-3-4, 3-4-5/ then 1-2-3-4, 2-3-4-5, 3-4-5-6 etc. (play quickly)

5 - Play backwards

6 - Add-a-note: 1-2, 1-2-3, 1-2-3-4, 1-2-3-4-5, etc., and (assuming nine notes total) also play 8-9, 7-8-9, 6-7-8-9 etc. (play quickly)

*7 - Thought-practicing. (Imagine the pitches, the sound color, the finger movements, and lip-tongue-jaw movements, without moving any muscles. Don't be surprised if it takes longer than you think. Then play, and keep alternating.)

8 - Play the notes without rhythms; say the rhythms without the notes

9 - Combine with idiotic movements (kick, hop)

10 - Increase focus by playing against distractions (radio, etc.)

11 - Rhythmic displacement (put a beat inflection on the second 16th of every beat, then on the 3rd, then on the 4th)

*12 - "Moyse-ing" the passage (Play it in the Art of Sonority rhythm: quarter then dotted half, then repeat; then from note 2 to 3, quarter to dotted half, then repeat, and so on.)

13 - Nine times very slow, one time fast; then nine times very slow again, then one time fast. Repeat the entire process nine times. (Do not repeat the fast time even if it isn't good yet.)

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