

How to Make First Chair

Customized Practice Calendar

for use in conjunction with Chapter 3 of the book "How to Make First Chair," available online at:
<http://www.HowToMakeFirstChair.com>

STEP 1: Circle the date of the performance (audition, tryout, recital, etc.) at the bottom of the calendar below and use the small boxes to customize the dates on your calendar.

STEP 2: Indicate at least four practice sessions in Month 3 (Performance Practice), preferably on the same day of the week as the performance day.

STEP 3: Mark all remaining practice sessions in Month 1 (Slow and Steady), Month 2 (Metronome Overlearning), and Month 3 (Performance Practice).

STEP 4: Mark practice sessions in Week 1 to study the music and familiarize yourself with all musical terms, key signatures and time signatures.

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Pencil Study, Musical Terms, Errata Research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slow and Steady #1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slow and Steady #2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slow and Steady #3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slow and Steady #4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metronome Overlearning #1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metronome Overlearning #2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metronome Overlearning #3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metronome Overlearning #4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Performance Practice #1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Performance Practice #2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Performance Practice #3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Performance Practice #4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Audition Week	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Practice Startup Checklist

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INSTRUCTIONS: Examine your music for each item below. Use a pencil to make notes on your music and indicate the date that the item was completed in the space provided.	
Item or Task	Date Completed
Form and Repeats	
1. I have verified all repeats or other indicators of the music's <i>form</i> (da Capo, DS al Coda, 1 st & 2 nd Endings, etc.) and determined if they are supposed to be observed or ignored.	
2. I have confirmed whether the entire piece is to be performed or if only certain measures are to be played.	
Time Signature & Tempo	
3. I understand the time signature of this piece of music.	
4. I have examined the music for any changes in the time signature.	
5. I understand the target performance tempo of this music.	
6. I have observed all changes in tempo and understand them.	
Musical Terms	
7. I have personally found the definitions to all musical terms and understand how they apply to this music.	
Key	
8. I have examined all key signatures in the music.	
9. I can play through the scales associated with each key signature appearing in the music.	
10. I know the name of each major or minor key appearing in the music.	
11. I have observed the proper key signature throughout all octaves.	
12. I can perform the scales associated with all of the keys represented in my music.	
13. I have identified all accidentals and determined if there are any carry-through-the-measure spots.	
Dynamics	
14. I have observed all dynamic markings. Do the dynamics of the piece change?	
15. I have observed all changes in dynamics and I am prepared to exaggerate them so listeners may perceive the changes.	
Articulation	
16. I have gone through the entire piece articulating every note with a "Tah", "Dah", or "Ah" syllable (or slight variations of these syllables)?	
Phrases & Breathing	
17. I have examined the music for specific phrase markings or implied musical phrases due to rests or note patterns?	
18. I have marked where I will breathe with my pencil.	
Errata	
19. If applicable, I have reviewed an errata sheet and I have made any indicated corrections with my pencil.	

