

Quick Notes #1

“Common Performance Issues”

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Breathing

- Breathe deeply
- Breathe often
- Play on the top 2/3rds of the breath
- Mark every breath in your music

Warm Up

- Use a metronome and tuner at all times
- Move in time and in tune
- Watch yourself in a mirror
- Know what you are trying to accomplish in every exercise

Sight Reading (Common Errors)

- Observe the key signature (especially the last flat or sharp of the signature)
- Uneven pulse, often doubled or halved
- Tempo is too fast
- Use the first and third valve slides
- Do not bypass rests

Scales

- Keep an even pulse
- Move the tempo ahead when comfortable
- Keep the articulation even
- Center the sound
- Use the first and third valve slides

Etudes

- Breathe deep and often
- Release the mouthpiece pressure (during breaths/rests)
- Keep an even pulse
- Create musical shape
- Maintain quality throughout
- In practice – slur everything and then BERP it

Articulation

- Keep style/length of notes consistent throughout
- Define the end/length of each note
- Play the last note of a slur full value (do not clip)