

Trumpet Solo Class Lecture #12

“Elements of Sight-Reading”

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What to Look for

- Check the time and key signatures.
- Glance over the entire piece and locate any problem spots.
- Count (and tap) the challenging rhythmic patterns.
- Try to identify patterns in the musical line or rhythm.
- Start thinking through the music from the beginning using the fingerings.

Things to Consider

- Sight-reading is scored based on accuracy to the printed page.
- Sight-read every day.
- Begin by reading simple materials slowly advance to more difficult selections.
- Start with short examples (3-4 lines).
- Go over each passage until you are sure that it is correct.
- Practice your sight-reading with a metronome
- Sight-read in every key.
- Identify any performance problems that re-occur (uneven tempo, pinching on high notes).
- Sight-read music for instruments other than your own.

Advanced Skills

- Transpose
- Learn to read a variety of clefs.
- Transpose key signatures, play something in C in the key of C# (B flat in B, F in F#).
- Read from the last note of the piece to the first (backwards).
- Read one or more measures ahead of where you are playing.
- Work with a partner cover and the measure you are playing to force you to look ahead.
- Record your sight-reading and check it against the printed page.

General Rules

- Perform at a conservative tempo.
- Once you start, do not stop.
- Stay in real time; do not let any errors distract your attention from reading ahead.
- Strive to play with the same support and focused sound as prepared material.
- Make a musical statement the first time through.

Hierarchy of Elements

- Rhythm
- Pitch
- Articulation
- Dynamics
- Phrasing
- Style