

Chamber Music: Rehearsal Strategies for chamber music groups ©

1. Listen to a recording or watch on YouTube: know how the piece sounds - and practice your part! Take your chamber music part to your private lesson.
2. Rhythm
 - a. personal rhythm
 - b. group rhythm: use a metronome as needed.
3. Learn your music early! Feel confident so you can look up at other musicians.
4. Ensemble and Communication: who is leading, and where?
5. Practice “leading movements” -- what works? Does breathing help? Do violinists/violists lead differently than cellists, bassists, pianists?
6. Pitch
 - a. personal intonation: tune to a tuner, A=440
 - b. group intonation (know the key, harmony and chords)
7. A. Dynamics
 - B. Balance: know where your part needs to come out, and where you need to play less.
8. Decide on a rehearsal strategy at each session: what needs work? Who runs the rehearsal? Who decides what’s important? Leaders and followers.
9. Articulation: string instrument articulation and piano articulation
10. Matching bow strokes and note lengths
11. Matching bow direction (vln/vla is sometimes different than clo/bass)
12. Sound and vibrato (changes with style of piece)
13. Know the whole score (read off the score)
14. Style and time period: what do you know about the composer? When did he or she live? What happened of interest in their life?
15. Expression and emotional message of the piece
16. Phrasing and rubato
17. Dance and movement elements: can your movements show the piece’s expression?
18. Find consensus in your group’s interpretation. Consensus vs. democracy

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Outreach dates: Saturday Oct. 22nd and Sunday Nov. 6th, both early afternoon