

HOW TO BEGIN A New Piece

1. SILENT STUDY FIRST

- Who is the composer? What is the musical period?

- What does the piece's title tell me?

- What is the time signature? Any tempo changes? What is the pulse?

- What is the key signature? Are there accidentals?

- What is the finished tempo? Describe the mood/character of the pc.

- What are the main musical markings or articulation?

- What is the dynamic range?

- What is the form? AB? ABA? Intro? Coda? Repeats? D.C. al Fine

- What are the patterns? Scale passages? Chord shapes? Jumps?
Repeated notes?

- Where is the melody? What kind of accompaniment is used? Texture?

- What is the starting hand position? Does it stay or move? Often?

2. SIGHT READ at a VERY slow steady tempo ALL the way through. DO NOT STOP. Leave out notes if necessary but keep going. Remember where you had difficulties.

3. MARK THE TROUBLE SPOTS How many are there? What makes them difficult? Tricky rhythm? Fingerings? Tricky notes? Jumps?

4. PRACTICE SECTIONS - How many are there? (They should be short - 4 to 8 bars only). Mark your music and number them