

HOW TO BECOME A GREAT SIGHT-READER

Sight-reading music is different from practicing or performing music. The goal is to capture as much of the music as possible *without stopping*. You only get one chance. It's OK if you play a wrong note, or skip a note, or leave out one hand, or even miss a whole measure...but NEVER LOSE THE BEAT.

It's easy to become a great sight-reader: just do it every day for the rest of your life!

TAKE IT EASY

Use only pieces that are at least one level easier than your normal repertoire.

MAP IT

Find familiar patterns. What key is it in? What's the time signature? How many chords or scales can you name? Where are the repetitions? What's the loudest and softest spot?

FEEL IT

Does the rhythm change anywhere? Tap that rhythm with both hands to show RH and LH parts. Count out loud.

CALM DOWN

Pick a slow tempo so that you can....

KEEP GOING

If you make a mistake and you stop to correct it, you have made two mistakes, not one.

KEEP SCORE

4 points for perfect continuity

3 points for perfect rhythm

2 points for perfect notes

1 point for dynamics

A perfect score is 10. 8 or 9 is still excellent. 5 or below means, Slow down next time!