The Star-Spangled Banner

U.S. National Anthem

Adagio

Verse

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light, What so

proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleam? Whose broad

stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight, O'er the

ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming? And the

rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air, Gave

proof thro' the night that our flag was still there. Oh.
say! does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave O'er the

land of the free and the home of the brave?
Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light, What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleam-ing? Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight, O'er the ram-parts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming? And the
rock ’et’s red glare, the bombs bursting in air, Gave proof thro’ the night that our flag was still there. Oh,
say! does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave O’er the
land of the free and the home of the brave?
Practice Tip Sheet

The Big 5:
1. Reduce work with posture and high dynamic energy
2. Troubleshoot - Everything should be easy
3. Breathe
4. Trust yourself to play accurately and musically inspired (instead of judging)
5. Always play as a gift to yourself and others

The Main Practice Areas:
1. Technique - Abilities, Movements, Chords, Scales, Patterns, Exercises, etc.
2. New Notes - One new piece of music at a time
3. Tricky Spots - Detailing small sections of pieces
4. Repertoire Maintenance - Pieces you already know
5. Sight-Reading practice - note recognition/playing; clapping/counting rhythms

The 7 Steps to Learn Any Piece:
1. Make small sections
2. Know all the notes and musical markings
3. Clap and count the rhythm aloud
4. Play the right hand alone, counting aloud
5. Play the left hand alone, counting aloud
6. Play hands together, taking corrective pauses (no mistakes!)
7. Play hands together in rhythm, with slow metronome

Musical Starting Points:
1. Know which notes are melody (probably stems up), and play the others quieter
2. Connect all melody notes smoothly (no gaps)
3. When a musical line or melody goes up in pitch, get quieter
4. When a musical line or melody goes down in pitch, get louder
5. Don’t let the high notes stand out (any note higher than those before and after)

Practice Tips:
1. Before slowing down or speeding up (rubato) master it at a steady pace.
2. For tricky spots, state out loud exactly what the problem is, in every detail.
3. Memorize every piece (even if you don’t, you’ll learn it faster if you try)
4. Have a purpose behind each repetition (blind repetitions are lazy practice).
5. Video yourself for performance practice and to hear what is and is not working.

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