

May 25th Lesson Plan:

Hello SMP musicians! Those of you who signed up for online lessons already know this...we've been focusing on two main pieces of music for a possible virtual concert! Our hope is to record "March of the Metro Gnome" (strings) and "New Orleans Strut" (band) in the next couple of weeks. Both of these will be at 108 beats per minute so make SURE you're using a metronome. If you're not in online lessons but you'd like to be involved, contact our Program Director, Aja, at aja@seattlemusicpartners.org to see if we can fit you in for one quick recording session (you must be completely ready). Because of the emphasis on these songs, you'll notice the other two tunes we've been working on are no longer listed in the Lesson Plans.

Beginning and Advanced Band:

New Orleans Strut. Now that we've fixed most of the notes and rhythms, it's time to continually play ALL THE WAY THROUGH this piece. I'm not kidding...set your metronome between 90-108 and use earbuds or headphones so you get used to that constant beat in your ears while you play. Once you start the piece, make sure you play all the way to the end. If you make a mistake, it's crucial that you still continue as if it didn't happen. Doing all of this will increase your stamina (how long you can play) so you don't have to stop during the recording. In all, this piece should be about 2.5 minutes long. Count all your rests out completely. I'd recommend doing this complete exercise described about five times per day. We can fix little mistakes in our online lessons.

Besides all of that, don't forget to practice a bit of sightreading! **Advanced** players should be looking at how dotted quarter notes work by playing #113-#116. **Beginners** should try to sightread #83 and #84 (check the key signature!)

Beginning and Advanced Strings:

March of the Metro Gnome: Now that we've fixed most of the notes and rhythms, it's time to continually play ALL THE WAY THROUGH this piece. I'm not kidding...set your metronome between 90-108 and use earbuds or headphones so you get used to that constant beat in your ears while you

play. Once you start the piece, make sure you play all the way to the end. If you make a mistake, it's crucial that you still continue as if it didn't happen. Doing all of this will increase your stamina (how long you can play) so you don't have to stop during the recording. In all, this piece should be about 1.5 minutes long. Count all your rests out completely. I'd recommend doing this complete exercise described about five times per day. We can fix little mistakes in our online lessons.

Besides all of that, don't forget to practice a bit of sightreading! **Advanced** players should look at #188-#190. **Beginners** should look at #96-#89.