

So...you finished your playing assignments for the week, submitted your scores and still don't have enough practice time on your SmartMusic practice record...

*"How do I accumulate practice time?"*

Your question shall be answered!

Here are some ways and ideas that you can use to get more practice time in on SmartMusic to meet your practice record goals. All of the following items are free for download to your SmartMusic library, if you have not gotten them already. **Remember: you only get credit for your practice time when you are logged into your SmartMusic account.**

- Review some of your **SCALES**. You are practicing these every day, right? You should be! Also available for download are the **INTERVALS, ARPEGGIOS, and TWISTERS** exercises. The better you can play these, the stronger of a musical technician you are and the easier reading music will become. These exercises are the building blocks of music, so when you master these, you have mastered the foundation of your musical playing. Even Yoyo Ma still practices his scales, intervals, and arpeggios daily because they are that important. You are never too old or too "good" to practice yours!
- Practice some **SIGHTREADING**. You should be practicing this every day along with your other practice items. SmartMusic is great in showing you the appropriate way to practice this skill: looking at it first for a set amount of time, then playing through the exercise as seamlessly and accurately as you can.
- Play through some of the **RHYTHMS** exercises. Rhythm is another building block of music. The stronger rhythmic reader you are, the more successful you will be.

- **PLAY THROUGH YOUR ASSIGNMENTS AND METHOD BOOK EXERCISES SLOWER.** The slower you play, the more accurate you probably are, and the more time you spend playing (therefore gaining more time on your record). The benefits are twofold!
- Once you receive **BAND SHEET MUSIC**, search for these pieces on SmartMusic. Many times SmartMusic will have these pieces, and you can play along with them online, too!
- Of course whatever you do, **do it accurately, and make it worth your time!** Practice with a goal of improvement in mind, and you will be on your way to becoming a strong musician.

*Happy practicing!*

