



# Make Your Practicing Count!



## Before you start practicing:

- Set a goal for your practice session. Your goal can be to master a section of the music or just a few measures.
- You will get more out of your practice session if you work towards a goal and not towards a set amount of time. If you achieve your goal in 10 minutes or less, set another goal and continue practicing.

## As you are practicing, ask yourself these questions:

### 1) *Am I playing the rhythm correctly?*

- If you are having trouble with a lot of measures, work on one measure at a time.
- Count and clap the rhythm a few times to make sure you know how it goes.
- Play the rhythm on an open string.
- Play the rhythm with a metronome to make sure that you are keeping a steady beat.

### 2) *Am I playing with the correct bowings?*

- Isolate a difficult bowing by practicing it many times on an open string.
- Add the correct fingering only after you are sure you can play the bowing without making a mistake.

### 3) *Am I playing the right notes and are they in tune?*



- Work on difficult notes in small sections. If you are having trouble with two notes, play only those two notes many times without the rhythm.
- Check that you are using the correct fingering for each note.
- If you are not sure if your notes are in tune, set your tuner to the note that you want to fix. If there are several notes in a row that are out of tune, play with your tuner set to one note. (ex. If the piece is in G Major set the tuner to play a G)

### 4) *Am I playing the correct dynamics?*

- Think about what you need to do with the bow to make a difference between different dynamics.
- Practice the dynamics just as carefully as you practice playing the correct notes.

### 5) *Allow yourself to play through an entire piece or an entire section a few times without stopping.*

- ***Your entire practice session should not consist of this!*** If you make a lot of errors, go back and work on the spot until you can play through without errors.