

WEEK 4:

WRITE IT DOWN, STEP IT UP

Practice logs are a great way to keep yourself honest about the quantity, quality, and comprehensiveness of your practice time. These three components of good practice should guide your preparation for any performance, but they are especially important for those working to get into a college-level music program. Consider how you measure up in these three areas:

- Quantity: are you spending as much time practicing as you think you are?
- Quality: how well do you use the time you spend?
- Comprehensiveness: do you practice the same piece over and over or do you cover everything on your audition list equally?

A binder or spiral notebook is a good way to record your day-to-day practice observations. For your daily log, include the following information:

- Date
- Goals for the day
- For each etude or movement:
 - Amount of time spent practicing
 - Specific areas you worked on (either measure numbers or aspects of musicianship, such as intonation or rhythm)
 - Observations and notes:
 - What are you satisfied with?
 - What needs to change or improve?
 - How can you adjust the things that need to change?
 - Did the adjustments work?

Taking notes as you practice is essential; the realizations you make about moments in your music will pass you by and be forgotten if you don't record them for later use. Your notes will become an excellent resource for you; if you figure out a helpful tip in one area of your music, it usually can be applied elsewhere.

Use the following page as a guide for your daily practice notes.

Daily Practice Log

Date: _____

Title of piece/movement/etude:
Goals for today:
Total practice time on piece:
Areas of piece practiced (either measure numbers or aspects of musicianship):
What were you satisfied with?
What needs to change or improve?
Specific adjustments made:
How the adjustments affected the piece:
Other observations:

College auditions mean a large volume of repertoire, etudes, and scales to prepare. In order to practice in a deep and inquisitive way, you're going to have to choose a few things from your rep list to focus on each day. Start every practice session with the things you didn't get to in your previous practice time; this keeps you from getting mired down in one piece and it also prevents boredom and burnout.

Use the weekly practice logs on the following pages to make sure that you cover all your audition material evenly over the course of a given week. There are enough pages included to record your practice for the remainder of Boot Camp.

7-Day Practice Log: Audition Repertoire
Example Week

Pieces/scales/etudes	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Andersen etude	✓			✓		✓	
Bach movement 1		✓			✓		✓
Bach movement 2	✓			✓			✓
Bach movement 3			✓			✓	
Bach movement 4	✓			✓			✓
Major scales (flat keys)		✓			✓		
Major scales (sharp keys)			✓			✓	
Sight reading		✓				✓	
Mozart movement 1 (exposition)			✓				✓
Mozart movement 2 (exposition)		✓			✓		

7-Day Practice Log: Audition Repertoire
Week 4 of Boot Camp

Pieces/scales/etudes	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7

7-Day Practice Log: Audition Repertoire
Week 5 of Boot Camp

Pieces/scales/etudes	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7

7-Day Practice Log: Audition Repertoire
Week 6 of Boot Camp

Pieces/scales/etudes	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7

7-Day Practice Log: Audition Repertoire
Week 7 of Boot Camp

Pieces/scales/etudes	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7

7-Day Practice Log: Audition Repertoire
Week 8 of Boot Camp

Pieces/scales/etudes	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7

7-Day Practice Log: Audition Repertoire
Week 9 of Boot Camp

Pieces/scales/etudes	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7

7-Day Practice Log: Audition Repertoire
Week 10 of Boot Camp

Pieces/scales/etudes	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7

7-Day Practice Log: Audition Repertoire
Week 11 of Boot Camp

Pieces/scales/etudes	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7

7-Day Practice Log: Audition Repertoire
Week 12 of Boot Camp

Pieces/scales/etudes	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7