

INGREDIENTS FOR IMPROVING RESULTS IN PERFORMANCE MUSIC

Go to your instrumental / vocal lessons each week

- be on time
- make sure you have your instrument and music
- watch and listen carefully
- get your teachers to model good technique and sound for you
- keep a notebook
- ask questions
- concentrate

Repertoire choice

- choose your music carefully
- ask your teacher for ideas
- choose music several months before your assessment
- choose music that 'you can learn from' i.e. it will help you get better at your instrument
- study, learn and get to know your music in detail

Practise every day

- set up a routine
- find a good practise place
- start with warm up and technical exercises
- work on your performance pieces
- practise the parts you can't play!
- don't always start at the start
- pay attention to the detail - tempo, dynamics, articulation, pronunciation, tuning etc
- finish your session by playing through a favourite piece of music
- ask your teacher how much time you should spend each day practising
- you will only get better with regular practise

Set goals

- aim for excellence
- do a performance music exam
- audition for a group or a show
- set goals and work on a plan to reach them
- take the opportunity to learn a second instrument

Listen & watch

- go to concerts
- buy CDs or download performances of great musicians
- find recordings of the pieces you are playing
- watch performances on 'youtube'
- video yourself and give yourself a 'critique'

Research

- investigate the background to your music
- find out about the composer and the era

Making musical choices

- what is the composer trying to express?
- are you just playing notes or are you actually making music
- what makes a musical performance?
- what are you trying to express?