

Chamber Music 101
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Welcome to your "new family"! Rules of the game - everyone's ideas count, no voice is louder than any other, flexibility is everything, no instrument or player is perfect, everyone has an opinion to be heard, no idea is "dumb," and we're all in this together!

Practical info:

- Tuning is imperative, and is a constant. Everyone must adjust (give and take - family rules!)
 - ◆ Know your tendencies (practice playing over reference tone) and be aware of those of your family members
 - ◆ Blending and quality help
 - ◆ Vibrato can help or hinder: eliminate for tuning concerns, and use responsibly!
 - ◆ Harmony happens - what is the function of your note?
- Awareness counts!
 - ◆ What is going on...at any given time? Are you playing the melody or a supportive part? Are you in unison, octaves, alone, other?
 - ◆ What is the rhythm that is being played while you play...anything?
 - ◆ Did someone say dynamics?
 - ◆ Didn't I hear this earlier?
 - ◆ Are we there yet? Families that stick together, grow together

Tools and rules for rehearsing:

- ❖ Rehearsals are family times - no cell phones or other distractions. Be present
- ❖ Preparation happens before the meeting
- ❖ Preparation encompasses listening to several recordings with a score, marking your part, and noting questions/goals for the next rehearsal. Share ideas or links to consider: interpretation, tempo, and other items to try next time
- ❖ Set goals at the start of each rehearsal, and discuss goals to prepare for next rehearsal
- ❖ Making a rehearsal recording run through - listened to individually and discussed at next rehearsal
- ❖ Movement is powerful - air is not visible so practice cueing and delivering effective gestures in front of a mirror
- ❖ Determine who is starting, stopping, leading, etc. - and practice this individually and as a group
- ❖ Eye contact determines set-up (can you see me now?)
- ❖ Everyone's time is just as important. Be punctual, warmed up, instrument assembled, reeds ready to go, pencil, a score to refer to, etc.
- ❖ Determine goals at the end of each rehearsal for the next meeting.

Music is best when shared: go out there and play your piece for others!