

Mozart Symphony 35 Excerpt Practice Tips

1. Intonation Practice – Mozart’s symphonies represent the pinnacle of the Classical era. The harmonies must be sparkling clean, with every note ringing true to the D major scale. Before tackling this music, practice the 2-octave D Major scale with a tuning drone set to D. Once this is complete, simplify the main theme and practice slowly with the drone. How slow? Slow enough that you can hear every how every single note sounds with the drone!

Example:

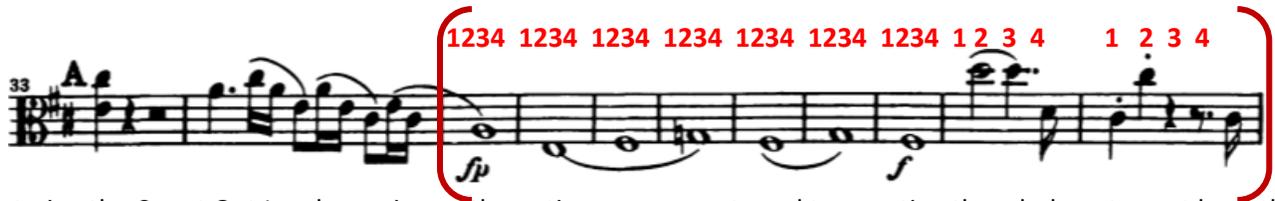


Practice one bracketed section at a time-if there is a trill do not play it

For set 1, keep the drone on D. For set 2, practice with the drone on D or A. For set 3, practice with the drone on A or F#. The octaves present the biggest challenge, so meet this challenge with great patience and discipline!

2. Rhythm Practice – Mozart 35 is full of rhythmic challenges because there are many rests and long notes. Studying the score is a great way to learn how the music sounds-it can help you create a soundtrack in your head to play along with during the audition and it also helps us understand how our rhythm fits in with what’s going on. We will cover How to Score Study later – for now, try an exercise that I use all the time to improve rhythm performance in auditions. Count the pulse out loud as you are playing the following exercise. The **metronome** should always be on for this exercise.

Example 2 –



Before trying the Count Out Loud exercise on the entire passage, get used to counting the whole notes out loud-this will help you keep track of the pulse and stay steady.

Challenge: Count out loud for the first two bars of Rehearsal A!

3. Practicing the fast notes – We are going to call this next exercise “Lightning Practice”. This is where you practice a fast passage by breaking the section down into the smallest bits and practice those extremely small bits extremely quickly. Lightning Practice the 2nd bar of Rehearsal A.

Example 3:



Translates to:



Can you play each little bit in tempo? Gradually make the space between each bit smaller and smaller until you can play the passage as written!