

Suggested Practice Schedule for Aural Theory

The old rule-of-thumb about spending 2 hours a week for every hour spent in class is a good habit to establish when developing your ear. We meet twice a week for about an hour, therefore, you should plan to spend 4 hours/per week outside of class working on your aural theory. If you do this regularly, you will advance quickly and most likely earn a high grade. The amount of time you put into this class is directionally proportional to the mastery of final outcomes.

I highly recommended that you block out a daily time and stick to it. As demands on your time typically fluctuate during the semester, I'm presenting some sample schedules here that take into consideration alternatives to strict daily practice. These should be followed only occasionally when you're forced to put in some extra time for that research paper, major exam, creative project, or big performance. Otherwise, you should practice at least a little bit every day. Note that these are just general guidelines, and you may need more or less time to hone certain aural theory skills. There will also be times where you'll need to work on keyboard activities that are only assigned periodically for our recitations.

When practicing daily:

Even days:

Solfège Warmups (5 minutes)

Sight-Singing/Rhythmic-Reading (25 minutes...pick out and work on at least 5 exercises from our current chapter of study, working each to perfection)

Odd days:

"Try It" exercises (10 minutes)

Contextual Listening assignments (20 minutes)

When taking one day off during a single week:

Even days:

Solfège Warmups (5 minutes)

Sight-Singing/Rhythmic-Reading (35 minutes... pick out and work on 7 or 8 exercises)

Odd days:

"Try It" exercises (up to 15 minutes if necessary)

Contextual Listening assignments (up to 25 minutes if necessary)

If taking two days off during a single week:

All days:

Solfège Warmups (5 minutes)

Sight-Singing/Rhythmic-Reading (15 minutes...pick out and work on 3 exercises)

"Try It" exercises (10 minutes)

Contextual Listening assignments (20 minutes)