



Three simple words!

Keep at it!

This is probably the most important message we can share with you during this period of coronavirus self-isolation.

No matter what this pandemic throws at us, or how long we remain away from close human interaction and participation in our music ensembles or classes at the now closed “brick and mortar” schools, let’s keep that focus on maintaining our “chops,” building on our “musical momentum,” and practicing *every* day.

From an eco-friendly (“save our natural resources”) slant as well as an economist’s perspective, you have invested way too much time and money on playing an instrument. You can’t give up now! So, nature and the COVID-19 have thrown you a few curveballs these past seven weeks? The only way we should respond to the challenge is to meet it head-on: take advantage of all of this available “free” stay-at-home time to further our artistic enrichment and make “new and improved” musical goals!

“When we least expect it, life sets us a challenge to test our courage and willingness to change; at such a moment, there is no point in pretending that nothing has happened or in saying that we are not yet ready. The challenge will not wait. Life does not look back. A week is more than enough time for us to decide whether or not to accept our destiny.”
— Paulo Coelho, [The Devil and Miss Prym](#)

No music teacher should have any patience listening to your whining or remarks of “could have,” “would have,” or “should have been” excuses. What have we always wished for? “If only I had enough time to learn that new scale, étude, or song!” “With all of my other academic assignments, sports events, and

“The brick walls are there for a reason. The brick walls are not there to keep us out. The brick walls are there to give us a chance to show how badly we want something. Because the brick walls are there to stop the people who don’t want it badly enough. They’re there to stop the other people.”
— Randy Pausch, [The Last Lecture](#)

extracurricular activities, how can I fit in moments for listening to bands, orchestras, or virtuoso artists performing on the web?” “When am I ever going to have the chance to compose...” (or “arrange” or “record” or “memorize” or “choreograph”) “...that piece?” “When will I get around to learning this new technique, practice sight-reading, or play those drills designed to improve my key literacy, rhythmic precision, range, form, coordination, embouchure, stick rudiments, or bow control?

The answer is... now only one word: NOW!

What are you waiting for? You have too much at stake here, and soon, this crisis will pass, and we will all come back together – only much stronger and wiser for making good choices in the use of our time!

We divided up the SHJO.clips (see page 2) into categories to help you develop “well rounded” musicianship. How many of these have you accomplished? In your clip journal, do you show progress in all focus areas? Can you advise SHJO members and directors on *your* recommendations for future projects to further our “collective” creative expression knowledge, skills, and appreciations?

“A crisis creates the opportunity to dip deep into the reservoirs of our very being, to rise to levels of confidence, strength, and resolve that otherwise we didn’t think we possessed.”
— Jon M. Huntsman Sr., [Winners Never Cheat: Even in Difficult Times](#)

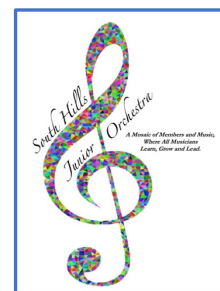
Now get out there and learn, create, and share meaningful moments in music!

Paul K. Fox, Artistic Director www.shjo.org



The mission of South Hills Junior Orchestra, which rehearses and performs at the Upper St. Clair High School in Pittsburgh, PA, is to support and nurture local school band and orchestra programs, to develop knowledge, understanding, performance skills, and an appreciation of music, to increase an individual member’s self-esteem and self-motivation, and to continue to advance a life-long study of music. Members of the Orchestra learn, grow, and achieve positions of leadership to serve their fellow players.

This and all Fox’s Fireside blogposts are free and available to share with other music students, parents, directors, and supporters of the arts.



For more information about SHJO, please visit <http://www.shjo.org/>.

Source: <http://www.shjo.org/clips>

#	Activity	✓
1a	Chrome Music Lab	C
1b	Fugue in G Minor Critique	L
2a	Guide to Appreciating Classical Music	L
2b	MusicTechTeacher Games Set #1	IS
2c	Ladder of Music Achievement Part I	P
3a	Compose Harmony for G Minor Fugue	CL
3b	WarrenMusic on theory/ear-training	L
3c	Ladder of Music Achievement Part II	P
3d	MusicTechTeacher Games Set #2	IS
4a	Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser's Message	I
4b	PSO Extraordinary Measures Part I	L
4c	The Wheel of Fortune Practice Spinner	P
4d	More Online Music Games	S
4e	Music Practice Bingo Card	CS
5a	On the Ear News Reporter	S
5b	The Musicologist musictheory.net	I
5c	Classical Music Fails	L
5d	Mr. Fox's Music Bingo	P
5e	Mr. Sheehan's Practice Guide	P
6a	Easy Music Games classicsforkids.com	S
6b	Copyright Issues - Avoiding Getting Sued	LI
6c	Musical Dice I	P
6d	Musical Dice II	C
7a	YouTube Kids Playlist	L
7b	Whack-a-Note	S
7c	Song Writing	C
7d	Music Exploration and Reflections	I
8a	Free Theory Resources	I
8b	TED Talks on Music Part I	LI
8c	12 Strategies for Success (Secret Formula)	P
9a	Rhythmic Dictations	L
9b	More Fun and Games sfkids.org	S
9c	TED Talks on Music Part II	LI
9d	Focus on Tuning	P
10a	TED Talks on Music Part III	LI
10b	Tips from Itzhak	P
10c	Ear Training Games	S
10d	SHJO Rehash	L

#	Activity	✓
11a	Journaling	CP
11b	TED Talks on Music Part IV	LI
11c	Mr. Lampe's Playlist	LS
12a	Masterclasses to View/Apply to Practice	PL
12b	Gaming in Music zzounds.com	S
12c	TED Talks on Music Part V	LI
12d	PSO Extraordinary Measures Part II	L
13a	What's Behind the Music (Stories)	I
13b	Focus on the Bow and Tone	P
13c	Speedy Plan	P
13d	Focus on Brass	L
13e	MusicRacer	S
13f	Math and Music	I
13g	Music Writer and Flat Free app	C
14a	eBook Excerpts (a Teaser)	S
14b	Stradivari's Heirs	I
14c	Warming Up	P
14d	Play-in-Place	L
14e	Just for Fun	S
14f	Courseware	I
14g	Clip Journal	C
15a	Bizarre Composer Facts <i>coming soon</i>	
15b	Tips & Excerpts <i>coming soon</i>	
15c	Sight-Reading <i>coming soon</i>	
15d	Phrase Game <i>coming soon</i>	
15e	Augusto's Playlist <i>coming soon</i>	
15f	Carnegie Hall <i>coming soon</i>	
15g	Analysis <i>coming soon</i>	
15h	Free Create <i>coming soon</i>	
16a	"See" the Music <i>coming soon</i>	
16b	Balance Pyramid <i>coming soon</i>	
16c	Mr. Levy's Ideas <i>coming soon</i>	
16d	President's Own <i>coming soon</i>	
16e	More Games Galore <i>coming soon</i>	
16f	Analysis 2 <i>coming soon</i>	
16g	Chords for Films <i>coming soon</i>	

C = Create, invent, explore L = Listen I = Inspire, read, analyze P = Practice, perform S = Share, show others, play for fun