

WHAT CAN I DO TO IMPROVE MY PLAYING?

START HERE:

GAME OVER

if NO then

if YES then

GAME OVER

if NO then

if YES then

from myself?

Am I open to

constructive criticism?

from others?

What am I / others hearing in my playing?
 What written feedback have I received about which areas of my playing need attention?

Rhythm

Pulse

Tone

Notes

Articulation

Intonation

Have I tried simply slowing things down so I have a chance to think more clearly about what I'm doing?

Can I clap and count all the rhythms in the piece?

Have I tried subdividing (saying the "+" or "ands") while counting and clapping?

Have I written in the counting for tricky spots?

Do I practice with a metronome?

Am I tapping my toe inside my shoe to keep the beat?

Am I "screaming" the beat inside my head while playing & resting?

Check:
 -embouchure
 -breath support
 -posture
 -reed/equipment

Am I listening to great players to serve as models to inspire me?

Do I practice long tones daily, with *straight line* sound?

Can I play all the notes *without* the rhythms?

Do I have and use a fingering chart?

Am I paying attention to key signatures?

Am I carrying accidentals through to the end of the bar?

Have I tried practicing the different articulations (legato, staccato, accent, marcato) one repeated note or a scale?

Have I tried removing the articulation markings, slurring or legato tonguing everything at first, then adding each type of articulation one at a time?

Do I actively listen to tune my "trio" (my either side neighbours and myself) as I play?

Do I try to achieve "zero beats" when playing long notes?

Have I worked with a tuner to discover which notes are # or b?

Do I make the most of **Dynamic contrasts** as I play?