

# THE INCOMPLETE LAWS OF PRACTICE

## MARK'S FUNDAMENTAL LAW OF PRACTICE

Whatever you practice is, for better or worse, what will happen when you perform.

## THE POPE'S PARAPHRASE ON PITCH PURIFICATION

Hear everything. Notice much. Fix one thing at a time.

## THE EHNES PARADOX

The slow way is the fast way.

## THE CROUSE CONUNDRUM

Don't practice what you see on the page

## ANNE-SOPHIE'S CHOICE

Use your instrument only to practice things that require your instrument.

## THE HOROWITZ LAW

It is more important to be even than to be fast.

## EARL'S COROLLARY

If you are having trouble playing something, you are probably rushing.

## THE HORSESHOE RULES

- Almost in tune is still out of tune
- Almost in rhythm is still not in rhythm
- Almost together is still not together.

## SAM SNEAD'S PRINCIPLE

The only way to build realistic confidence is to practice.

## YOGI'S OXYMORON

You can hear a lot just by listening.

## THE AITKEN EQUATION

Spend 90% of your time on the 10% that is difficult.

## **Why aren't you practicing?**

*A day when you do not practice is a day you do not get back. An hour you do not practice is an hour you do not get back.*

## **Why aren't you practicing?**

There are working musicians out there who are frustrated with their jobs, unhappy with their playing, wishing they were doing work that was more interesting, challenging and artistically satisfying. They mostly complain about how unfair the music business is, but sometimes – when they are honest with themselves – they wish they had practiced more, practiced harder, practiced with more urgency and commitment when they were in high school and college. I know many of these people. I promise: you do not want to be one of them.

## **Why aren't you practicing?**

It may feel to you like you are really busy. In truth, however, this is the last time in your career when you will have the time and space to practice. This is the best chance you will ever have to make your playing and musicianship grow.

## **Why aren't you practicing?**

*Because you don't know what to practice? Or how? Talk to your teacher. Someone else's teacher. A colleague whose playing you admire. Read a book. Make a tape of yourself. Think.*

## **Why aren't you practicing?**