**To learn the rhythms:**

* Count the rhythms
* Clap the rhythms while counting
* Count the rhythms while fingering along on your instrument
* “Wind pattern” – blow air and articulate (tongue the notes) without producing a tone on the instrument
* Sing or play the rhythm on one note (repeat the same note)
* Have one member of the group clap or stomp a steady beat while other members play or sing their part
* Break down the part into smaller chunks, even one or two counts
* *Slow, correct repetition!*

**To improve accuracy on a difficult section:**

* Choose a very small section – turn the metronome to *super slow motion*! If you cannot play it accurately slow it down more. If you can play it 3 times in a row correctly, turn up the metronome 2 notches. Repeat until you reach the performance tempo
* Alternate between playing a small passage (2 measures or less) and the entire phrase that contains that passage (4-8 measures)
* Alternate between playing the passage and doing it with “wind and fingers” (no tone, just wind pattern & fingering)
* Have the section leader play the passage, then add other members one by one, listening closely for uniformity of tone, articulation, etc.
* *Slow, correct repetition!*

**To make sure the pitches are being performed accurately:**

* Have everyone play through a part note by note – SLOWLY – make sure each note sounds correct
* Same as above, but have one group member play the part on piano note by note to make sure the pitches are accurate
* Have all members play the same part in unison (for example: all clarinets play the 3rd clarinet part together)
* *Slow, correct repetition!*

**To figure out how different parts fit together:**

* Have all members of the group play each of the different parts in unison
* Have one member of the ensemble keep a steady beat or conduct to make sure rhythms are lining up correctly
* If there are 4 different parts (or more), try listening to all the different combinations of pairs (part 1&2, part 1&3, part 2&4, etc.)
* *Slow, correct repetition!*

**To add refinement once the notes and rhythms are learned accurately:**

* Have each person perform individually and compare tone, articulation, dynamics
* Have two people play together until they match the interpretation exactly (then add more players one by one). Members not playing can finger along, watching their music and deciding if the two (or more) players are matching exactly.