



Bullseye: Making the Rehearsal the Center of Your Musical Life

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PRIORITIES

What are your *priorities*?

What is the “thing” that’s most important about what you do, and what is all the “stuff” that simply supports the “thing”?

Is making great music, engaging your students, and creating musical memories your priority? If so, you must find a way to keep that in focus and at the center of your work.



REHEARSAL

Rehearsal should be the focus of our teaching, our time, and our energy.

REHEARSAL is the place where we spend the most time engaging our students, the place where we can make the biggest impact, the place where our students build relationships with their teachers and each other, and the place where we truly mold their experience in our ensemble or activity.

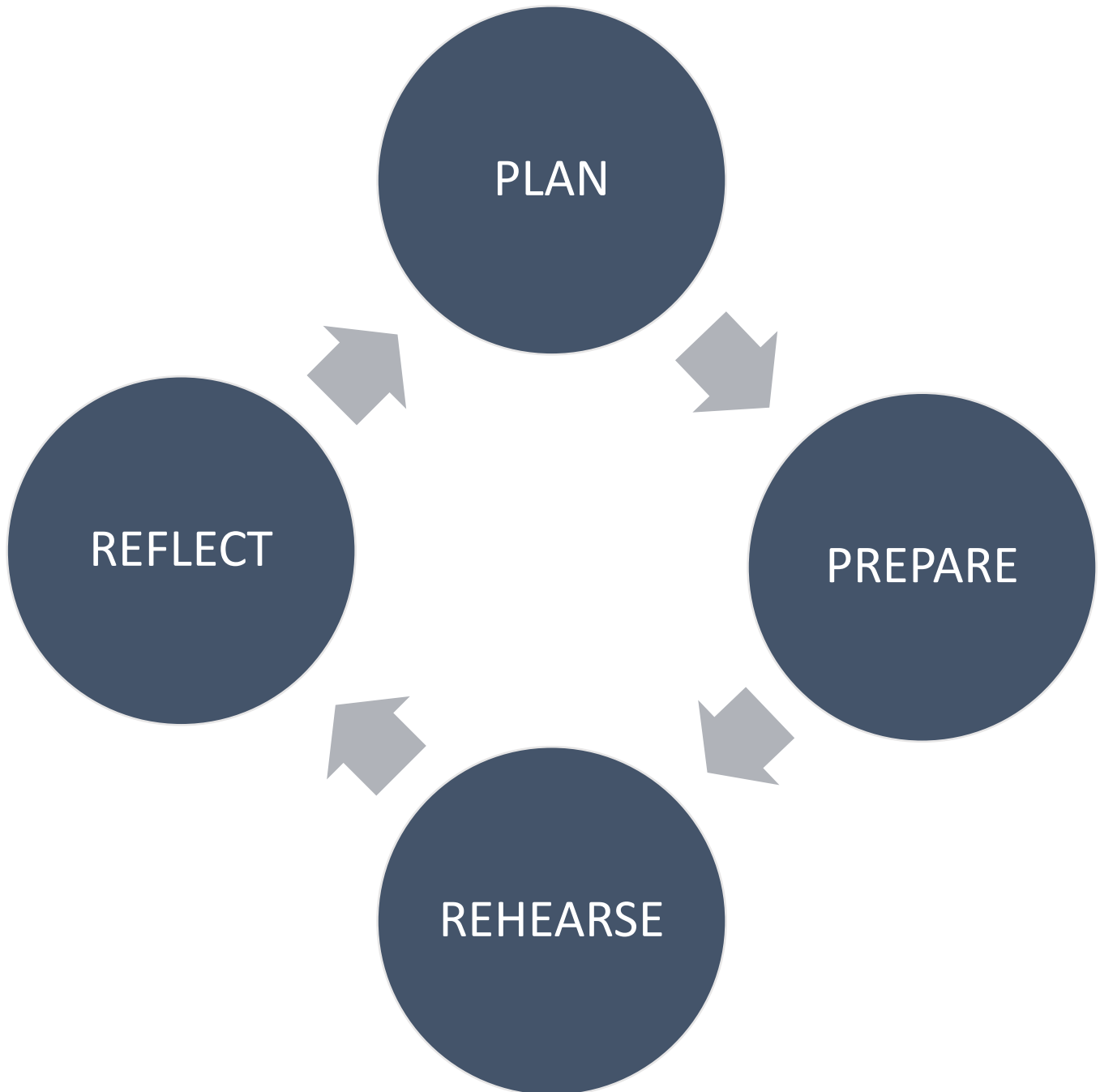
The rehearsal room (or field!) is our classroom.

Is the *rehearsal* the focus of our daily energy and attention?
Or is it an afterthought, something that “interrupts” our work?

PRIORITIZE



COMPARTMENTALIZE



THE “STUFF”

We all wear many hats and are pulled in many directions, but we must work to keep the rehearsal at the center of our musical life.

Identify what prevents rehearsal from staying in focus.

What are the tasks/activities directly related to teaching and music making?

What are the administrative tasks that directly support/impact teaching and music making?

What other administrative tasks are required of us, which are unrelated to our teaching?

We must take the time to prioritize and compartmentalize each of these!



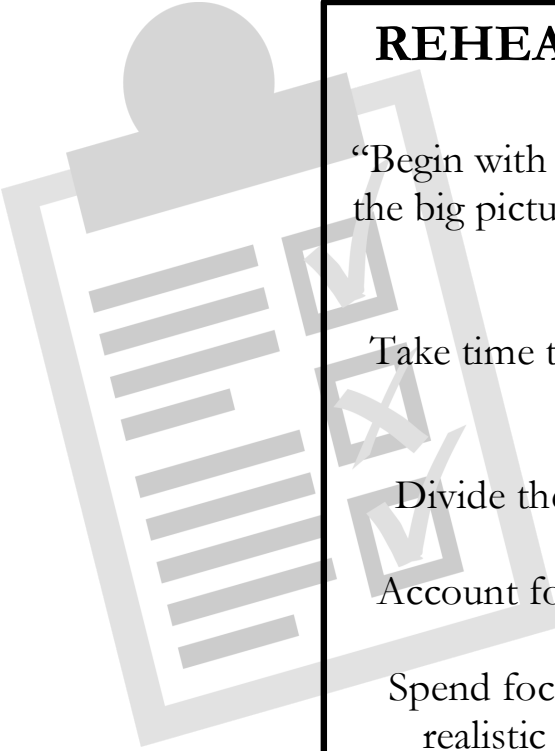
OVERWHELMED???

PERSONAL SCHEDULING

A personal schedule that accounts for all classes, as well as rehearsal preparation time and administrative time, can help compartmentalize tasks.

At times the “administrivia” can overwhelm the rehearsal and music making. It is up to us to create a schedule that protects the rehearsal time as well as time for thoughtful preparation and reflection.

If we create a schedule and protect this time, it will prevent us from having to choose between a pressing administrative task and the more important (but seemingly less pressing) task of preparing for rehearsal.



REHEARSAL PLANNING & PREPARATION

“Begin with the end in mind” when planning rehearsals, and consider the big picture. Avoid beginning each rehearsal blindly and waiting to see what happens.

Take time to consider the total minutes available to prepare a given program.

Divide the time based on the length and difficulty of each piece.

Account for missed rehearsal time due to various school activities.

Spend focused time anticipating how a day’s rehearsal will go. Be realistic - It’s OK to anticipate things being less than perfect!

REHEARSAL REFLECTION

Rehearsal reflection is as important as rehearsal preparation. If you wait until the next rehearsal to try and remember what needs attention, it will be too late.

While it’s fresh in your mind (even between pieces during rehearsal!), find a way to record your notes from a given rehearsal to assist in planning the next one.



PRIORITIZE
COMPARTMENTALIZE
PLAN
PREPARE
REHEARSE
REFLECT
(REPEAT!)

Today's Date:

Concert Date:

Piece:

Section/Measures

I Need To

THEY Need To

WE Need To