

## **10 ways to motivate practicing**

Playing a musical instrument is about enjoying the expressiveness found in the music and the expression you add to it. Be patient and understand that it takes time to blossom.

1. Musicians should play music that they want to play. Go to your local music store and purchase band books or song collections that have play along CD's. Make sure you can read and play the notes.
2. Make a trip to your local music store and look through books for ideas or to purchase. Make sure you can read and play the notes.
3. Form a band and play solos, duets, trios, and rounds together. Band Brilliance is packed with these; even the sight-reading section can be played as duets.
4. Purchase a duet book and play with a friend or relative.
5. Keep a practice log and set a weekly goal.
6. Listen to music you are not familiar with and see if it sparks an interest in your musical self.
7. Attend concerts including bands, jazz bands, symphony orchestras, etc. Listening to the New York Philharmonic play Beethoven's 5<sup>th</sup> Symphony is the musical equivalent of a 45 minute touchdown.
8. Set a goal for your playing. Participate in a solo festival or contest. Audition for a select band in your school or in your area.
9. The more practicing you do, the more fun it is to play. Remember that the hardest part is the first 4 months of playing.
10. Play an instrument in good condition that has a good mouthpiece. You'll be surprised how much better you can sound with switching to a good-quality instrument and a high-quality mouthpiece.

Reed players: Make sure your reed is in good condition and that it is the proper strength for your playing.