

Concert Band

Instruments

This unexpected break is a great time to practice. If you have your instrument home, please practice as much as you can. You would be surprised how much you will improve with 20-30 min of practice time. Remember how we go through practice in class. For something new, count and clap the rhythms before you try and play. This will help you understand how the song should go before you worry about how the notes should sound. Once you start playing, be sure to go slow at first and identify any spots that you are struggling with. Those are the areas that you should practice separately from the whole song. Once you are confident you can play them, play the whole phrase or example. Remember if we do not work on that problem spot by itself and try to fix it as part of the whole song/phrase, we are only getting better at what we already know and not learning anything new. You can also find great music to play on the internet. You can also do the next section too.

No instrument but you have Internet connection

If you have internet connection but do not have your instrument, you can use this time to listen to professional musicians play. One of the best ways for us to improve is to listen to our instruments being played by the people who play it best. Please look up music specific to your instrument. For example, if you play trumpet, look up music that features the trumpet. One of the best ways to find music like this is to look up a **Concerto** of your instrument (look up Trumpet Concerto). Most instruments have music. Percussionist and bass players will have to be a bit more creative. Percussionists look up percussion ensembles. Bass players look up artists like Victor Wooten.

No instrument No internet No problem

If you have neither an instrument or internet, you can create your own instrument. Household items can make great instruments. For example you can create water drums using mixing bowls, wooden spoons and a little bit of water. You could make chimes using glass bottles, wooden spoons and a little water in the bottle to change the pitch. The possibilities are endless. The music world is full of stories of people making their own instruments to entertain themselves and others. Most instruments that we play today started that way. Be creative and have fun. If you make something that you would like to share, take some pictures or make a recording.