

Figure 3.7. Sample Practice Assignments for Advanced Learners

**Advanced practice assignment #1**

- Quarterly practice record with strategy bank & open-ended reflection
- Assigned practice excerpt based on playing test or other performance assessment goal
- Strategies selected based on learner preference

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Playing test assignment:</b>	<b>Test on:</b>
<i>Assigned pages, measures, and/or other relevant parameters</i>	<i>Playing test date</i>

<i>used? (y/n)</i>	<b>Suggested strategies</b>	
	Whole-part-whole	Play through a long section (4-8 measures or more). Identify where the challenging place is. Work slowly and deliberately on the challenging part. <b>When you've made some improvement, put it back into context.</b>
	Adding on	Start with one measure, or just a few notes. Once you're comfortable with a small piece, add more (2 beats or 1 measure at a time).
	Chunking	Play 1-2 measures. If you're successful, move on to the next 1-2 measures.
	Slow practice with metronome	Use a metronome, set to a logical rhythmic subdivision. Listen and play along with the beat. Start at a slow enough tempo that you can play the passage with no trouble. Gradually increase the tempo.
	Clap, tap, pat, and count rhythms	Start by writing in the counts wherever you're having trouble. Then, clap or tap and count the rhythm in tempo. Use a metronome.
	Air bowing (rhythm)	Start by writing in the counts if you're having trouble with counting. Isolate the bowings and perform the rhythm. You may also choose to play the rhythm with correct bowings on an open string.
	Silent fingering	Without air, finger through the notes in rhythm. It may be helpful to isolate 1-2 measures at a time. Try each passage silently, then try playing.
	Pizzicato	Put your bow down and pizz!
	Listen to a recording	Listen to a recording and follow along/finger along in your music. What do you notice?
	Record yourself and listen	Record yourself playing a short passage. Listen to the recording and follow along in your music. What do you hear?

**Reflection** (1 paragraph per question—use a separate page or type if you prefer)

What strategy or combination of strategies was most useful to you in preparing for this playing test? Why?

Did you learn anything about yourself as a musician through this practicing assignment?