

My Favorite Way To Rehearse  
**A BIG BAND**



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**JEN 2026**



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## **1. Let's Check Out This Track**

We listen to the track together. *Together* is key here. If I am focused, they are more likely to be so.

## **2. Let's Listen To The Track Again While Focusing On Your Instrument**

We listen again, this time with more focus.

## **3. Hang On A Second. (Pass out the music)**

**Let's Listen Again While Watching Your Part Go By**

We listen again and each member calculates their own understanding of how the written notation should sound when played.

## **4. OK. Let's Play It!!**

## PROS

- **Less needs to be explained by the director**
- **Fewer verbal instructions/details need to be retained by the player.** They have a more immediate understanding of how the music should *sound*.
- **Another level of “band unity” is developed.** Creates an environment of Collective Listening, listening together as a group.
- **The written figures and styles played will become familiar.** The more they are heard and imitated, the more they will naturally become strengths. These techniques will be used in all pieces they perform.

## CONS

- **Arguments have been made about this being difficult to do in the limited rehearsal times.** Understood. However, the bottom line will reveal that *less* time is actually used to rehearse because of the combination of focus, analysis of the music by each player, aural development and performance techniques.