



## eLESSONS

### Musings on Learning Music

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## MAKING YOUR ENTRANCE

Coming in correctly is not easy and not for the faint of heart! Picture yourself as jumping on a moving train: you can't do it from a standstill, you have to prepare and be running along beside before you jump!

It is the same thing when making an entrance in a piece of music. You need to know your part and how it fits into the whole, and you need to be listening to tempo, style, dynamics, etc., so that you are ready to land with the others. **Then** – a few measures before your entrance, you need to have your instrument up and ready to play. One measure before your entrance, be breathing with the pulse of the music (running alongside the train), so that you can easily make the leap onto the moving train (a.k.a. your entrance) at the right moment, going the same speed as the train! Whew!



What about entering at the very beginning of the piece, especially if you enter very quietly with the melody as a solo/soli? You need to be “playing” the music in your head before we start to get the style, etc., then when the conductor gives you the tempo/pulse before the count-off, put that beat in your body so that you are physically “running along beside the train”. When the conductor raises his/her hands to give the count-off, you raise your instrument, keep the beat going in your body, think of what you are trying to communicate to the audience, then the beat before the entrance, take a breath (or for the percussion, do your upstroke) and jump on the train! Hopefully you land solidly, if not, roll so you don't get hurt too badly and jump in when you can!

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