

Mr. S-P's Top Ten RULES of THUMB

These principles will work in most every musical situation. Make them a regular part of your approach to the music we prepare!

- When a REST follows a LONG NOTE, "*carry over*" or release the long note on the first beat of the rest.
- Shorter notes should be played with less "weight" than longer notes – and vice-versa.
- Rapid or "notey" passages call for a *light approach!* Play softly, use the tip of the tongue.
- When playing groups of 4 eighths or sixteenths, a little accent on the *first note in each group* provides stability.
- In slower music, "feel" the rhythmic subdivisions and bring out the moving parts.
- When playing dotted quarter note rhythms – TAP TWICE!
- When playing "pairs" of eighths or quarters in Jazz or Pop styles, use the "doo-dot" articulation.
- See a crescendo – think *soft first*. See a diminuendo – think *loud first*. This helps create more *dynamic contrast*.
- Most phrases build to a highest or most prominent note – push the phrase forward to that "arrival point" – *NO BREATH* during crescendo passages.
- Beat 1 is your friend! Always watch the conductor, *especially on beginnings, endings, and transitions!*

