

The Executant, by R.M. Endresen
Performance Notes

1. This piece is a Theme and Variations. It is important to “bring out” the Theme when you perform it in Variation 1 and 2.
2. You should know how to play your C scale and Chromatic scale to perform this piece.
3. Never just play the piece without doing the fingerings and articulations as air sounds first. Watch the video to see what I mean.
4. **Tempos:**
 - a. Start the piece with a mini-Cadenza. (A Cadenza allows the performer to show off, by speeding up and slowing down the tempo of the passage, and playing technically demanding phrases..It is like a Classical improvisation.) There is a short Cadenza here, but do something with it and make sure to get soft for the 1st space “E”.
 - b. For the Theme, marked Slowly, I would say the tempo should be around Quarter = 80.
 - c. Variation 1, Quarter = 88 - 96. Play it as fast as is comfortable. Don’t get messy with the tonguing or coordination between tongue and fingers.
 - d. Variation 2, Quarter = 88-96. Don’t play this Variation slower than Variation 1; if anything, play it a pinch faster provided you are coordinated with your fingerings and tonguing.
5. **DYNAMICS!!!!** This piece is all about **EXPRESSION**, which includes Dynamics, crescendos and de-crescendos. Follow them all.
6. If you want, add a slight *Rit* Line 3 from the top, measures 4 through 6. Be sure to write *Rit...* in the part you give the judge.
7. I would suggest that you DO count the multiple measures of rest before each Variation because they are not long and you need to take the time to empty out and re-focus.
8. Really feel the triple meter in Variation 1 very evenly. Watch out for the 6th line from the top, the 2 F#’s in the triplet. The pattern changes here, so be sure to always finger first before you play as I talk about above.
9. Follow the accents in Variation 2 to show off the “2-person” effect I talk about in the video.
10. Do a slight accelerando at the end of the piece, but not so much that you lose control.
11. Create a weekly practice plan to achieve your goals. Think of the long-term goals you want to achieve (ex. Play the entire piece at the suggested tempos with accurate notes and rhythms and expressiveness by one week before my NYSSMA date.) Think of short-term weekly goals that are achievable, and document your progress. (If you want to learn how to practice effectively, especially for NYSSMA, check out my product, [NYSSMA De-Mystified: Everything You Need to Know to Nail That Audition!](#) I also include Units on What do the Judges Look For, Mental Preparation, How to Approach Sight-reading, Jazz NYSSMA, Techniques to Deal with Stage Fright, and over 60 minutes of Videos that feature students who have been successful at NYSSMA.)

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