



## TOP TEN MUSIC READING TIPS

1. *What type of music is this piece?*  
(rock, pop, jazz, swing, classical, or gospel)
2. *Look through to find ALL or DIFFERENT time signatures.*
3. *Imagine the tempo in your mind - does it change?*
4. *Bring out the changes in dynamics.*  
(crescendo - decrescendo - sforzando)
5. *Find and play the changes in articulation.*  
(legato - staccato - slurs)
6. *Can you see and bring out the musical phrases?*
7. *Look for unusual rhythms and figure them out BEFORE you play!*  
(make sure dotted eighths to sixteenths are played correctly - subdivide in four sixteenths)
8. *Look for the highest and lowest notes in the piece and see how it relates to the musical phrase.*
9. *Find and REMEMBER unusual accidentals or key changes.*
10. *Don't play notes, BRING OUT THE MUSIC.*

It seems common place or silly to point out the basics, yet most people 'miss' an opportunity to 'pre study' a piece and LOOK at the basics of the music. By LOOKING at the basics YOU WILL BECOME A DRAMATICALLY BETTER PLAYER - It is the *smart choice* and it will improve your musical awareness and sensitivity.