



Questions

1. On a scale of 1-10, how loud is my *piano*? My *forte*? My *mezzo-piano*? Is each one the same number, or slightly different depending on the phrase?
2. Have I tried playing a phrase marked *forte* or *fortissimo* at a 9 or 10, really trying to be a 9 or 10 and not a “pretty”, restrained version of a 9 or 10?
3. Have I tried playing a phrase marked *piano* or *pianissimo* at a 1 or 2, really trying to be a 1 or 2 and not louder than a whisper?
4. When I play a *piano* or quieter, are the notes still clear? Do I need to make a color change to make the notes clear, even when they’re a whisper?
5. When I play *forte* or louder, have I tried to find an appropriate tone, whether or not that tone is “pretty”?
6. If no dynamic markings are given, or only a few, am I creating my own dynamic contrasts and writing them down in the score?
7. Is each *mezzo-forte* or *mezzo-piano* the same volume? Am I creating dynamic contrast even when I’m at an average volume?
8. What does this specific dynamic marking on this phrase mean to me? What is the emotion or idea it is trying to convey? How does that affect how loud or soft I play this phrase?