New Piece Checklist

First Things First

1. Can I count my way through the entire piece?

2. Can I clap my way through the entire piece, with a metronome?

3. Do I understand the phrase structure? Have I identified cadences?

4. What is the architecture of the piece

5. Do I understand the harmony?

6. Are the measures numbered? If not, mark them in the left hand margin.

Research

1. What do I know about the composer?

2. What do I know about the piece?

3. Are there any stylistic concerns I should be aware of?

4. How many good recordings of the piece am I aware of?

5. Are there other editions of the same piece?

Getting started

1. On a first read-through, how challenging is the piece?

2. What is my ultimate tempo?

3. Are there any technical requirements that will be challenging to me?

4. How many sections do I need to break the piece into in order to learn it effectively

5. Can I identify some short- and long-term goals? Can I set some deadlines?

6. Are there some practice routines or strategies I can use to help me learn this piece?