

Getting Ready for a Performance!

Try these tips to help you practice for the next few weeks as you get ready for the recital!

1. Play your pieces very slowly using the metronome and looking at the music.
2. Drill the tricky spots extra. Try them hands separately, hands together, very slowly, louder, softer, in a different octave on the piano.
3. Use a different memory drill each day.
4. Have a pretend performance. Close the music and put it away from the piano. Walk to the piano, sit tall and straight, make sure your bench is the right height, then play your piece. Don't let yourself stop - no matter what! Keep a poker face so no one will know if you make a mistake. Bow at the end to your imaginary audience. If you have a video recorder at home, be sure to record yourself playing a few times.

The Snail Game

Play a section of your piece very slowly with the metronome. Don't always start with the beginning!

Verbalize

Say out loud how the piece begins, or how it ends, or how a section begins. Where do the hands go? What kind of note do you begin with? Loud or soft? Rhythm?

Humming Game

Hum the melody while you play the accompaniment.

Change the Articulation

If the piece is mostly staccato, play it legato. If it is mostly legato, play it staccato.

"Ghost Practice"

Play the piece on a table top or on the closed piano lid while you are picturing it in your head. If you have a digital piano, play with the volume turned all the way down.

Section Scramble

Divide the piece into sections and number them. Write the numbers on index cards and scramble them up. Place the index cards on the piano rack and play the sections in that order!

Landmark Drill

Practice starting at different places in the piece and play to the end. Have at least 4 starting places that you practice beginning with.

Cover Up

Work on a 4 or 8 measure section. Play it with the music, then cover the last measure with a sticky note and play again. Now cover another measure and keep going until all are covered up.

Sing and Play Game

Play 2 measures, then sing (or think) the next 2, play the next 2, sing or think the next 2, etc.

Change the Register

Play the piece or a section of the piece in a different octave on the piano - try up high or down low, for example.

Score Study

Study the printed music, or the score, every day. Try taking it to your bedroom and look through it right before you go to bed.

Reverse Practice

Practice starting with the last measure, then the last two measures. Keep backing up. Or, start with the last phrase, then back up a phrase, etc.