

PRACTICING CHECKLIST

- Have you set aside a dedicated amount of time for practicing?
- Are you sitting correctly at the piano – check bench height?
- Did you read my detailed practice instructions from your notebook?
- Do you have your pencil and metronome available?

TOOLBOX...try a few!

Some Basics

1. Practice Hands Alone
2. Practice with different rhythms (dotted/triplet)
3. Practice with different articulations (staccato/legato)
4. Practice SUPER SLOWLY – then gradually increase tempo
5. Practice small sections until you feel confident to move on
6. Clap and count the rhythm of a tricky passage – and/or write in the counts
7. Count out loud while playing

Go Deeper

8. Do Opposite practicing – related to Nos 2-4 – if a passage is supposed to be slow, can you play it fast? Or the reverse? And if a passage is smooth and legato, can you play it staccato with dotted rhythm?
9. Tap rhythm of one hand while playing the other
10. Sing the melody while playing the LH
11. Practice broken chord passages as Block chords.
12. Memorize each hand alone – do small sections until you can join them into bigger sections

Are you using that pencil and metronome – and rereading my instructions??

And even Deeper!!

13. Analyze the music – do you see and hear repeating patterns?
14. Analyze the music – what key is it in and can you name the basic chords that are formed from the music? Ex. D Major – Tonic -
15. Analyze the music – does it stay in the same key?
16. Analyze the music – what is the general mood that the composer wants? Are you playing it with that expression?

Do you have your own ideas – or perhaps a favorite?

17. Your practice idea....
18. Your favorite.....

NOTES: Use the toolbox intelligently and for your benefit. You don't (and shouldn't) use ALL of those tools when you practice. Just as you wouldn't use a flathead screwdriver if the screw is a Phillips head!

Enjoy the process. That doesn't mean that every moment of your practice time will be fun! Practicing can be challenging, but it can also be the most rewarding time as you realize that you are in charge of your progress during this time. When you start to see and hear the results, it is a wonderful moment – so really – ENJOY THE PROCESS!!! Add your own tools to the end of the list if you want.