

SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL RECITAL AND AUDITION

PREPARATION

(adapted from Helen Marlais' *In Recital Throughout the Year with Performance Strategies*)

For the Student: Place a check by each activity as you accomplish it. Remember, you can practice these activities, just like you practice your pieces.

About four weeks before the performance date

- Can you hum the tune away from the piano, especially any trouble spots?
- Can you close your eyes and see your hands playing the entire piece?
- Can you start the piece in 4 places other than the beginning? (Be certain to practice starting from each of these places.)
- Even if you plan to use the music, can you play the piece from memory?

About two weeks before the performance

- Have you performed the piece in front of an audience at least once each week (for friends, at a music class at school, at your place of worship, for your community group, at your home for friends and family, for long distance friends using Skype)
- Have you imagined yourself on stage performing the piece. (Don't forget to smile and bow when you are finished.)
- When you play, did the piece sound like the title suggests?
- Do you practice each day in performance mode, where you play through any mistakes?
- Do you practice each day at half tempo, playing everything slowly?
- Even if you plan to use the music, can you play the piece from memory?

The week of the performance

- Have you practiced with your audition attire, especially the shoes?
- Have you numbered all the measures—if requested for the audition?
- Do you have your warm up prepared—if requested for the audition?

The night before the performance

- Plan to get a good night's rest!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR RECITAL PREPARATION— FOR THE TEACHER

Helen Marlais' *In Recital Throughout the Year with Performance Strategies*

Wisconsin Music Teachers Association A Student and Parent Guide to Auditions, found online at <http://www.wmta.net/WMTAStudentParentGuideToAuditions.pdf> (especially page 5, Student Preparation, and page 8, What the Judges Are Looking For)

Wisconsin Music Teachers Association Event Handbook 2011 found online at <http://www.wmta.net/WMTA%20Handbook%20OCT%202011.pdf> (especially pg 49 Details of Performance Expectations)

The Young Musicians Survival Guide: Tips from Teens & Pros by Amy Nathan (especially Chapter 6, The Jitters)

The Perfect Wrong Note by William Westney (especially page 81, Healthy Practicing: The Process, and Chapter 7, Out of Control, The Drama of Performing)