



## 10 Ways to Practice a Piece Before a Performance

- 1. Practice as slowly as possible.** This will force you to focus and stay present in the moment so that muscle memory doesn't take over.
- 2. Practice hands separately** so you can focus on spotting patterns, shaping the melody, and playing cleanly.
- 3. Practice on the closed piano lid,** focusing on good technique and how the piece feels as you play.
- 4. Practice the piece without warming up first.** We rarely (if ever) have the luxury of warming up completely right before we perform!
- 5. Do a complete performance run-through,** including: walking up to the piano, adjusting the bench, opening the music (if needed), playing the piece, taking a bow, and walking off stage.
- 6. Record yourself performing the piece.**
- 7. Practice performing in your concert attire.** This will help you make sure you can move your arms freely and pedal comfortably in your concert clothes and shoes.
- 8. Practice performing through distractions.** Have a pretend "audience member" make noise to see if you can keep playing, no matter what!
- 9. Perform your piece on several different pianos.** Get comfortable playing on an unfamiliar instrument by running through your recital piece at a local piano shop, church, or a friend's home.
- 10. Perform the piece for a small group of family or friends.**