

Your piece is completely memorized when you can:

1. Play the entire piece accurately, at half tempo, using a metronome.
2. Start at any logical starting point and continue through the rest of the piece.
3. Play right hand or left hand alone.
4. For pieces with arpeggiated chords - - play the chords blocked.
5. Name the chord progressions of the piece.
6. Remember accurately the way your hands look on the keys all the way through the piece.
7. Remember accurately the sound of your piece from beginning to end. (Try doing this with the metronome ticking.)
8. Play the entire piece watching every movement of the hands on the keys.
9. Play the entire piece eyes closed, or in the dark.
10. Play the entire piece silent keyboard. On a real piano simply tap the keys but don't play them. For keyboards, turn the volume all the way down and play your piece. If you have a record feature, record yourself with the sound off and then listen back at normal volume to check yourself.
11. Talk your way through the entire piece describing what happens.

Memorization Facts:

- 🎧 Sleep learning: Playing through memory work right before bed helps to imprint it on the brain.
- 🎧 The LH plays a greater role in strong memorization than the RH.
- 🎧 Fingering is most frequently the cause of memory slips.
- 🎧 Three-Way Practice (3 different tempi) balances memorization by decreasing over-reliance on kinesthetic memory.
- 🎧 Practicing as soon as possible after the lesson will help the new material imprint much better than waiting later in the week.
- 🎧 Singing phrases strengthens audiation, which is the strongest factor in secure memorization.
- 🎧 Learning advanced movements associated with high-level performing on any instrument is an extremely complicated process. The portion of the brain that coordinates movement is located at the back of the organ - the cerebellum and rear of the cerebrum.