

Performance-Ready Practice

For Early Repertoire

1	☐ I have listened to a recording of my music several times and know how it should sound. ☐ I have written in the definition of any musical terms or markings new to me. ☐ I can identify all notes and rhythms. ☐ I know which historical era my piece was composed in.
2	☐ I can play all the notes, rhythms, and articulations accurately at a slow tempo and/or in small chunks. ☐ I am making sure I have great posture and hand position every time I start and end a section. ☐ I have identified spots that will take extra practice. ☐ I know what key my piece is in and can play that scale(s).
3	☐ I have listened to my piece while watching my music. ☐ I have tried at least 2 different strategies to work on tricky spots. ☐ I have some ideas about the character and/or story of my piece. ☐ I have found good breathing spots.
4	☐ I have completed at least 5 perfect repetitions in small chunks (4 or so measures at a time). ☐ I can play through my piece at a slow tempo with good posture. ☐ I can play a phrase at a time accurately with a metronome. ☐ I can identify at least three things in the music (articulation, tempo markings, etc) that support my character/story. ☐ I can play comfortably using my marked breathing spots.
5	☐ I can play accurately and comfortably with the piano part (or a recording of the piece). ☐ I know (and can pronounce!) the composer's name. ☐ My articulation, tempo, and color support my story/character choices. ☐ I am maintaining good posture and hand position throughout. ☐ I have completed at least 10 perfect repetitions of each section of the piece at my performance tempo. ☐ I have practiced performing my piece on at least 3 separate days.

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For Intermediate Repertoire

1	☐ I have listened to a recording of my music several times and know how it should sound. ☐ I have written in the definition of any new musical terms or markings. ☐ I can identify all notes and rhythms. ☐ I know which era of musical history my piece was composed in.
2	☐ I can play all the notes, rhythms, and articulations accurately at a slow tempo and/or in small chunks. ☐ I have great posture and hand position every time I start and end. ☐ I have found good breathing spots. ☐ I have identified sections that will take extra practice. ☐ I can identify the basic form and major key areas of my piece.
3	☐ I have listened to my piece along with the piano score (if applicable). ☐ I can play through my piece at a slow tempo with good posture and hand position the entire time. ☐ I have found effective ways to work on tricky sections. ☐ I have some ideas about the character and/or story of my piece and can identify ways this is shown in the written music. ☐ I can identify style features typical of the composer or musical era.
4	☐ I have completed at least 5 perfect repetitions (by phrase/section) ☐ I can play comfortably with my marked breathing spots. ☐ I can play my piece with a metronome at a slow tempo. ☐ I have made decisions about dynamics, tone color, vibrato, etc to support the character/story of the piece. ☐ I am aware of notes/sections with difficult pitch tendencies and am working with a drone/tuner to build my internal ear. ☐ I have recorded and listened back on at least 3 separate days. ☐ I am maintaining good posture and hand position throughout.
5	☐ I can play accurately and comfortably with the piano part (or a recording of the piece). ☐ I have completed at least 10 perfect repetitions of each section of the piece at my performance tempo. ☐ I know (and can pronounce!) the composer's name. ☐ My articulation, tempo, and color support my story/character choices. ☐ I have practiced performing my piece on at least 3 separate days.

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For Advanced Repertoire

1	☐ I have listened to a recording of my music several times. ☐ I have written in the definition of any new musical terms or markings. ☐ I know which era of musical history my piece was composed in. ☐ I know the background of my piece--who/what it was written for, composer's intentions, etc.
2	☐ I can play all the notes, rhythms, and articulations accurately at a slow tempo and/or in small chunks. ☐ I have great posture and hand position, especially during tricky passages. ☐ I have identified sections that will take extra practice and considered what exercises or warm-ups might help with those skills. ☐ I can identify the basic form and major key areas of my piece. ☐ I can identify any runs or sections that use common scales/arpeggios. ☐ I have identified good breathing spots.
3	☐ I have listened to my piece along with the piano score (if applicable). ☐ I can maintain good posture and hand position throughout at a slow tempo. ☐ I have found effective ways to work on tricky sections. ☐ I am aware of any notes or sections with difficult pitch tendencies and working with a drone/tuner to build my internal ear. ☐ I can play each section accurately with a metronome. ☐ I have some ideas about the character and/or story of my piece and can identify ways this is shown on the page. ☐ I can identify style features typical of the composer or musical era.
4	☐ I have completed at least 5 perfect repetitions (by phrase or small section) ☐ I have made musical decisions (dynamics, tone color, vibrato, etc) to support the character/story of the piece. ☐ I have recorded and listened back to myself on at least 3 separate days. ☐ I have listened to at least 3 different versions for ideas and comparison. ☐ I can play comfortably using my marked breaths.
5	☐ I can play accurately and comfortably with the piano part (or a recording). ☐ I can audiate (hear in the mind's ear) my piece, including phrasing. ☐ I have completed at least 10 perfect repetitions of each section of the piece at my performance tempo. ☐ I know (and can pronounce!) the composer's name. ☐ My articulation, tempo, and color support my story/character choices. ☐ I have practiced performing my piece on at least 3 separate days.

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