

Guided Memorization for Pianists

Workshop details

Hello Everyone!

This workshop will consist of your piece selection process, 3 weekly Zoom sessions (2 hours each) and 2 weeks of your honest practicing in between. All levels are welcome - variety makes our experience more valuable. There will be no playing at the zooms, just active discussion of your piece and your weekly practice results. I will email with each participant individually prior to the 1st session and follow up between sessions. The total fee is \$180.

The workshop structure will be as follows:

A week before Zoom 1:

1. You will fill out a questionnaire and we will exchange emails to select a suitable piece (or section of a longer piece) for you to memorize.
2. I will ask you to analyze your score and send me a PDF of it, including your markings and section divisions. That will show me the extent of your current understanding of the music. If you aren't used to analysis, no worries: I will send everyone resources to get started or refresh what you already know.
3. Then I will add my own annotations to your score and email a combined PDF of analyzed scores to all participants. You may want to print out that PDF for reference during our Zoom 1 discussion.

Zoom 1:

1. We will meet and greet and I will outline our agenda and take questions.
2. I will share a screen and every participant and I will analyze their scores, talking about appropriate divisions for practicing, difficult sections, considerations specific to their piece, etc.
3. Everyone will estimate their goal for the week, we will go over steps of "mindful" and focused practicing for each piece and you will get a practice log.
4. We will discuss sensory vs. mental memory and share additional methods to aid memorization.

*Please note: unless you can practice an average of 45 minutes every day between our meetings, I can't **promise** any significant results. You will still learn a lot by attending but the main value of this workshop is experiential. Former participants found that being part of a group motivated them greatly and (after 2 weeks) helped firmly establish new habits.

Between Zooms 1 - 2:

1. You will follow up to let me know how things are going and ask any specific questions that may arise.
2. I will explain how to “check” progress to those who practiced enough.
3. Before Zoom 2, you will send me your filled-out practice log

Zoom 2:

1. Specifics of everyone’s week of practice will be shared.
2. We will discuss the difference between “mindful” practicing and our regular routines.
3. I will answer questions.
4. We will focus on in-depth harmonic and melodic analysis and look at some new examples together.

Between Zooms 2-3:

1. You will check in with me about your practice and progress as needed and make adjustments.
2. You will email me your Week 2 practice log.

Zoom 3:

1. Everyone will take turns and report on their second week, offering new insights, if any.
2. We will assess the results.
3. I will answer questions.
4. If there is time, we will analyze a few more fragments of piano music and discuss how to implement our analytic skills to make interpretive decisions.

*Having a variety of pieces and participants guarantees many topics cropping up at the Zooms in addition to our main agenda so your takeaway will include lots of tips that I can’t possibly predict at the moment. Hope you will enjoy this gratifying process with the rest of our participants!