

Practice Guide

Always use 'good posture' –keep feet flat on the floor or on the pedals if your piece requires pedaling. Try to keep your shoulders relaxed.

Are you using a good hand position?

Are your fingernails too long? Do they need to be trimmed?

Be consistent with the fingering – decide what works best and then stick with it! If your teacher has marked specific fingering, use it!

Make sure you are playing the correct notes! Are there any sharps or flats? Remember that sharps and flats last through the measure.

Are you using the correct rhythms? Are you counting?

Try not to play too fast – be patient!

Make sure you observe all the rests – rests should be silent.

Observe the dynamics: pp, p, mp, mf, f, ff, crescendo, diminuendo

Are you observing the articulation: slurs, staccatos-short, legato-smooth, non-legato?

How does it sound? Are you listening? If you can't hear all the details, you are probably playing too fast. Allow yourself to play only as fast as you are capable of 'hearing' everything that needs to be heard!

Are you playing with feeling? Are you trying to create an image or tell a story?

Are you using the pedal? Listen carefully! Experiment!

Tone production –listen to the quality of the sounds you are producing.

Are you having trouble with a particular section?

Try reviewing it hands separately.

Try singing the right hand part and or the left hand part.

Try practicing just a small section or using a backwards chain.

Try practicing two parallel sections.

By all means play the piano but don't forget to practice!