

The Art of Memorization

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- I. To memorize or not to memorize?
- II. Types of Memory:
 - Long Term Memory
 - Short Term Memory
 - Working Memory
 - Sensory Memory
- III. Stages of Memory
 - Encoding
 - Consolidation
 - Retrieval
- IV. Types of Memory for Musicians
 - Analytical
 - Visual
 - Aural
 - Tactile
- V. Additional Memorization Strategies
 - Come up with a 'memorization plan' - memorize small chunks at a time.
 - Review newly memorized material every day.
 - Play through the whole piece in your mind.
 - Slow practice for fast, technical passages
 - Have starting points.
 - Write out troublesome memory spots on staff paper.

- Assign characters and emotions to musical gestures.
- Create visual images, vivid sets of scenes, characters, etc. to each phrase and section.
- Conceptualize the pieces as a trip you are taking.
- Test your memory by self-recording
- Practice/perform on as many different pianos as possible
- Perform by memory in tiered stake performances.
- Arrange run-throughs and practice sessions in different contexts.
- Stay healthy - sleep 8 hrs, eat well, exercise

References

Madeline Bruser "The Art of Practicing: A Guide to Making Music from the Heart"
 Walter Gieseking and Karl Leimer "Piano Technique"
 Joseph Levinne "Basic Principles in Pianoforte Playing"
 Joseph Hofmann: Piano Playing: With Piano Questions Answered
 Noa Kageyama "Bulletproof Musician"
 Gerald Klickstein "The Musician's Way"

Sonatina in C Major

op. 4, no. 1

Samuel Wesley
(1766-1837)

use consistent fingering

Allegretto ♩ = 72 - 78

A
Cheerful

C: I IV I V⁷ I IV

G: I V I IV I V I

B

d: V⁷ i C: V⁷ I V VII⁰

IV I V I d: V⁷

diff. from n. 11

cadences - LH memory section transitions

full orchestra

For examinations, observe the repeat.
Source: 12 Sonatinas for the Piano-forte or Harpsichord, op. 4

Inventio 8

BWV 779

Water wheel, factory, machinery

call

response

I

3rds

diminution of main subject

chattery

6th apart - hands together, feel pulse

3rds

tumbling down!

6th apart again!

pick back up

inverted

pattern twists & turns

landed, wheew!

starts again, but in diff. key

∇/∇ ∇ (cadence!)

dim? chord!

something gone wrong!

16 *inverted*
right side up
G minor!

19 *Aug 4th!*
dim
major
sequence

22 *dim*
major
6ths!
sequence

25 *IV of original key F*
sequence

28

31
V I

Prelude in E Minor

Op. 28, No. 4

Largo.

chromatic melody

quick harmonic rhythms

espress.

bottom voice descending

top descending

bottom descending

back & forth

Jardins sous la pluie

雨中庭

blocked chord practice

Net et vif

3. *pp*

una corda (無Ped.)

Interval shrinks

diff. sonority

Aug 4th! build

back to minor

dissipates - diff touch

swirling

wandering

blocked chords
practising - tension resolution tension resolution

Musical score for measures 16-18. The bass clef system shows a sequence of chords: D major (measure 16), D minor (measure 17), and D-flat major (measure 18). Handwritten blue annotations include 'D-Db' and arrows indicating the resolution between these chords. The treble clef system contains a melodic line with fingerings (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) and slurs. Measure numbers 16, 17, and 18 are indicated at the start of each system.

Musical score for measures 19-21. The system is marked *poco cresc.* The bass clef system features a melodic line with fingerings (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) and slurs. The treble clef system contains a complex melodic line with many accidentals and slurs. Measure numbers 19, 20, and 21 are indicated at the start of each system.

Musical score for measures 22-24. The system is marked *molto cresc.* and *f*. The bass clef system features a melodic line with fingerings (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) and slurs. The treble clef system contains a complex melodic line with many accidentals and slurs. Measure numbers 22, 23, and 24 are indicated at the start of each system.

Musical score for measures 25-27. The system is marked *dim.* and *molto*. The bass clef system features a melodic line with fingerings (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) and slurs. The treble clef system contains a complex melodic line with many accidentals and slurs. Measure numbers 25, 26, and 27 are indicated at the start of each system.

una corde

Musical score for measures 28-30. The system features complex melodic lines in both staves with many accidentals and slurs. Measure numbers 28, 29, and 30 are indicated at the start of each system.

Fuga 21. â 3.

voice 1

voice 2

skips!

Bb! (I)

voice 3

S inverted

SI

sequence

V

g min (vi)

SI

voice 2