



PIANO PERFORMANCE

Checklist

- Took time to **situate themselves to the piano** including adjusting bench to appropriate distance/height and testing the touch of the keys with a quick warmup
- (If the situation has you announcing yourself and/or your piece), **spoke** slowly, and clearly, with well-articulated words and confidence
- Performed with and maintained **good posture** throughout including sitting up straight, feet planted appropriately, and choosing an appropriate bench height and distance from the piano
- Played with **healthy technique** including relaxed hand shape, shoulders, and upper body
- Performed with **rhythmic accuracy**
- Set and maintained an **appropriate tempo** throughout
- Performed with **note accuracy**
- If mistakes occurred, **continued in an inconspicuous manner** without pause, facial expressions, physical reactions (such as flinching), or sounds
- Performed with good **tone**
- Used appropriate **dynamics** in an expressive way and appropriate to the piece
- Used appropriate **articulation** (legato, staccato, detached) in an expressive way
- Used the **pedal** (if applicable) in an appropriate way with proper pedal technique
- Performed with **confidence and security**



THE DAY-OF YOUR Piano Performance

- Spend **a little time at the piano** first thing in the morning but try to not spend too much time practicing your piece. If you don't know it by now, you will not become better an hour before the performance. Playing it too much can make you nervous - especially if you start making mistakes.

Play it through slowly 1x, spend 5-10 minutes practicing a couple of sections, then practice your warm up and play it through at final tempo 1x. **That's all.** Spend time playing other pieces of music you know well just for fun to keep your fingers warmed up.

- Make sure you have practiced what you will use to **warm up** when you first sit down at the piano. Every piano feels different so don't be afraid to ask if you can try it out before you begin your piece. A brief scale/warm-up or opening 4 measures of your piece will suffice.
- Drink lots of **water** but be sure and use the bathroom no later than 30 minutes before performing. Avoid caffeine or sugary drinks and foods (unless avoiding caffeine makes you jittery!).
- Don't dwell** on the upcoming performance all day. Keep your mind busy doing other things and have conversations with those around you about things other than the performance.
- At least once during the day (and preferably about an hour prior to the performance), take a moment to **close your eyes and visualize** your performance including walking in, talking to the judges (if applicable), adjusting the bench, and warming up.
- Remember, you are here to **share** a piece of music with others. It's time to sit back and **enjoy** playing it. You've worked hard and know it well!
- Keep a **smile** on your face. :-)
- Take a **celebratory photo** after the performance somewhere that is memorable of what the event was and send it to your teacher!