

PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE

As the student ages and reaches further levels in the books, the practice time should increase. Here are some helpful hints for their practice:

1. Start with your favourite songs, then move on to the assigned homework.
2. Piano practice must be done regularly - a shorter daily practice time is far more effective than one long practice time the day before your lesson. Ideally:
 - 5-7 year olds - ten minutes (plus) a day
 - 8-11 year olds – twenty minutes (plus) a day
 - 12- adult – thirty minutes (plus) a day

On days the student has numerous other activities, this amount might be shortened. On other more open days, it can be lengthened.

3. Make piano practice a part of your daily routine - it is a good idea to practice during the same hour each day.
4. Start practicing soon after your lesson while your teacher's instructions and advice are still fresh in your mind.
5. Isolate problem areas in pieces and practice them first until you can play them fluently. Start slowly and increase speed gradually - you will not make progress by merely playing through the entire piece without correcting errors.
6. Always practice your pieces with hands separate first until you know it well enough to play it with both hands. Count carefully and look at key signatures and accidentals to avoid making the same mistakes each time.
7. It's always a good idea to practice with a metronome to help you not to speed up or slow down. A metronome is a great investment for any musician.
8. Last but not least: **Have fun!** Believe in yourself and enjoy making more and more progress by practicing diligently.

(adapted from <http://www.perfect-pitch-music.com/piano-practice.html>)

When questions come up during practise, feel free to make a note of them for the next lesson – or give me a call or send an email! You may also refer to the Policy page on the website for answers and information.

PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK THE PRACTISE ASSIGNMENT PAGE WEEKLY for the assigned homework. There are some times when a student says they didn't know they were to practice a certain song, etc. but it is written on the assignment page. Reading this regularly will help ensure the right songs/theory are worked on for the next week, and save time at the lesson.