

The layers of preparation essential to achieving...

## RECITAL SUCCESS

1. Get a concept for each work
  - Make decisions about style, phrasing, dynamics, and characters/moods
  - Study the historical background of the work and composer, analyze the harmonies, and listen to multiple recordings

**ASK YOURSELF:** Do I have a cohesive, convincing musical statement with integrity?
  
2. Practice to the point of excellence
  - Areas of focus: pitch stability, tempo consistency, technical solidity, and beauty of tone with a consistent line

**ASK YOURSELF:** Is it beautifully played with excellence in all areas?
  
3. Practice for endurance and consistency
  - Play through each work three times in a row 2-3 weeks before the recital

**ASK YOURSELF:** Is it beautifully played each time with consistency and minimal mistakes?
  
4. Practice for ensemble needs
  - Learn the piano score and its relation to the solo part
  - Record rehearsals and lessons with the pianist and study the recordings with the piano score

**ASK YOURSELF:** Am I solid with ensemble considerations, including balance, tempo consistency, and performance communication, while maintaining a cohesive musical statement?
  
5. Prepare for reed needs
  - Begin setting aside exceptional reeds three weeks before the recital
  - Plan to have two good reeds made specifically for the needs of each work (qualifying in response, intonation placement, and tonal beauty)

**ASK YOURSELF:** Am I making enough good reeds to supply for the needs of the recital?
  
6. Prepare for performance needs
  - Learn how to control nerves
  - Visualize what would constitute performing a “great recital”

**ASK YOURSELF:** Have I performed my program for other people and simulated a performance situation in my practicing?

Think beautifully...  
Play beautifully...  
Strive for professionalism...  
And **enjoy** the recital experience!

**You are now prepared!**