

# Tips on Memorizing

- While doing left/right hand patterns, **sing the melody in your head** as you play
- Check to make sure your **fingering makes sense**. Awkward fingering can trip you up just like a dancer with 2 left feet.
  - Am I using crossovers/crossunders to connect my phrases?
  - Am I placing?
  - Am I connecting patterns?
- **Red flag musical patterns** that are new to your "pattern repertoire"
- **Visualize** the form of the notes as you play.
  - Do they form mountains?
  - Is there an overall pattern that you see?
  - How does the rhythm effect the way the form looks?
- As you do your finger patterns of the song and sing the melody in your head, **squeeze the strings for extra kinesthetic remembering**.
- Close your eyes and visualize 1 hand playing. Then the other hand. Can you see both hands playing....?
- Analyze the song beforehand. **Find the right or left hand patterns that repeat**. Make a note of it in each measure with a small asterisk..
- On a pivot bass pattern or a drone bass, identify if the music calls for 5ths or 4th intervals. If they are all 5ths, just look at the bottom note when reading these patterns. Your 1st finger will know what the top note of the interval is. (This technique frees your vision up to read ahead.) This makes memorizing easier.
- Keep in mind **what key** your musical piece is so when get lost and forget where you are in the song, you know what chords to play in keeping with the key signature. Be mindful also of the timing as well, so you don't change the timing of the piece. This would make for an awkward turn in

*Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate,  
our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure  
Marianne Williamson*

the rhythmic phrasing. Unless you are at a place in the song to use the mistake as a bridge from one section of the song to the next. (This is a natural way to add contrast to a piece!)

- Knowing what notes to play is as important as what notes NOT to play or plug in when your lost in a piece of music. (Example: if your in the key of G, don't play the 5th interval of F# & C!)
- Make sure the **fingering is consistent** with each pattern that is the same
- **Drink water!** This helps the electrical impulses connect in the brain which will increase coordination
- Don't forget to do **Brain Gym!**
- Write above the staff the name of the chords. Put the sheet music in front of you and take a visual snapshot of the sheet music - note what the chords are. **Close your eyes and test yourself as you sing through the melody.**
- As you **sing the melody**, sing the name of the chord: Oh Danny "G" the pipes, the pipes are "D" from town to "G"
- Record the song on a tape player and when you listen to the song, go over in your minds eye the melody and add the chords: " da da da F da da da C da da F etc." Close your eyes and test yourself on this - what is your right hand placed on when you play that chord?? What is the left doing when you hear that chord?? Do you know where your hands are? Open the sheet music and peek to **reinforce what notes are being played and SING the melody too!**
- When memorizing a song, **DON'T memorize the treble clef all at once** and then add the bass hand, expecting both hands to suddenly work together. Work on the melody hand before it becomes memorized, so your hand is very familiar with it but it's not memorized, then add the bass hand. Both hands can learn to play together slowly at first!

*An error is not a mistake until you refuse to correct it*  
John Kennedy