

How to organize your piano practice?

Generally they are three types of playing:

1. **Practicing:** start from the most difficult spot, play in small sections and then connect them gradually with easier section in order to get the whole piece. Here you can interrupt playing to correct and improve.
2. **Performing as on stage:** no corrections and no interruptions allowed. If you make a mistake, hide it, mask it with the poker face. Of course, the musicians will realize it (though not all of them!), but the audience will know nothing about it at all.
3. **Maintenance and cleaning:** as I told you in the point 2, there are always small accidents during each performing. You have to get rid of them so that they won't stay in your memory forever. You just play the whole program at a moderate tempo and with maximum concentration in order to play without any mistake. You just mark the interpretation; you can even play faster slow parts to save time. Richter, after playing a concert went to a restaurant and then he cleaned the program he just played until 2 or 3 in the morning!

How to organize your work to prepare a concert?

Let's imagine that you have 8 weeks before the performing date.

Period A (4-5 weeks): you work in order of types 1-2-3. This means that after working all the tough spots, you have to play the whole program as on the stage and clean it. For the 24 Preludes by Chopin it may take about 40-60' so it's relatively easy. For a full recital program - 90-120'. For a full competition program (2-3 hours) this procedure can take many hours so sometimes you have to make choices.

Period B (last 3-4 weeks): order 2-1-3. It means that you have to start every day by playing the whole program in the most difficult conditions, without warming up, with cold hands. Then you fix all the mistakes you memorized (type 1) and at the end you clean and smooth everything (type 3).

More detailed information can be found in my article **"How to practice? Optimal piano practicing system: do more and better in less time!"** [on this page](#).