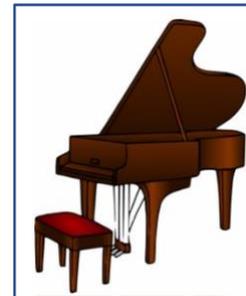


10 KEY POINTS WHEN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR A RECITAL

Have a clear vision from the onset of what you expect from each participant at a recital and how you will interact. Sometimes the teacher must be a psychologist to help students reduce tenseness, alleviate stress, and to reduce stage fright. Recitals can be a pleasant experience for all and less nerve-wracking if students are well prepared.



1. Guide students to have more engaging practice sessions. Consider random lengths of time and at different times of the day.

2. Encourage students to prepare for the audience by performing for family and friends, for classmates, for stuffed animals, at a nursing home, for their pet, or in front of a mirror.

3. Teach students the best method to memorize from the start.

4. Evaluate your students' progress on a regular basis, paying attention to details, such as dynamics, tempo and technique. Also, for the music to become more meaningful and easier to memorize, guide students to understand the form. As examples, "What section follows section A, and which measures are repeated?"

5. Help students develop excellent posture playing their instrument. (For piano players, refer to "Learn from the Penguin to Improve Your Piano Posture," located under the STUDENT RESOURCES menu on [Audrey J. Adair.com](http://AudreyJ.Adair.com) website.)

6. Provide a printed timeline for your students. (Refer to the download entitled "Recital Preparation Timeline" located under the STUDENT RESOURCES and TEACHER RESOURCES menu on [Audrey J. Adair.com](http://AudreyJ.Adair.com) website.)

7. If students are introducing their own pieces, provide them with a suggested script ahead of time, and as an assignment, ask students to practice saying it aloud in front of a mirror.

8. Inform your students in advance so they know what to expect the day of the recital. Include the order of performers, and items like a photo op with the teacher, intermission, group photo, and a reception following the recital.

9. Use examples to teach your students to play musically by showing how:

- a) to incorporate all the notation, articulation, and dynamics into the music.
- b) the notes or measures do not stand alone, but flow together by connecting each measure or phrase to the next.
- c) the rhythm is connected from one measure to the next.

10. Help students relax on the day of the recital by asking them to think of something funny if they get nervous.