

Keyboard Kids' Companion

Created by Teachers & Approved by Kids

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Ask the teachers

I love playing piano, but I am really worried about playing well in the recital. Please help!



Everyone feels a little jittery at times before a performance. The most important thing you can do to feel more confident is to ensure that you are thoroughly prepared. It's wise to be *performance ready two weeks before the recital*. Ask yourself these questions:

- Am I practicing enough? (At least for your assigned amount of time).
- Is my piece *thoroughly* memorized?
- Have I checked and double-checked all details?

If you can already answer "yes" to all these questions, try some of these ideas from the pros to further boost skills and confidence:

Continue to practice slowly. Even if you will perform a fast piece, plenty of slow practice will

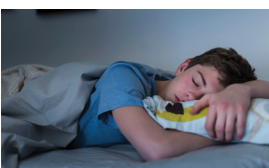
keep your memory refreshed and remind your fingers of details. It will also help your technique in many ways.

Remember that mistakes are normal for *everyone*. What's important is not if you make a mistake, but *what you do with it*. **Mark and practice emergency "restart" spots.** Most audience members wouldn't notice a thing if you can move on again quickly. Plus, just *knowing* that you have these restart spots can help you to avoid memory slips in the first place. When we feel more confident, our concentration improves!

Make video recordings of your playing. Watch and listen to how you sound to the audience. Note what you like, and what needs improvement.

Do some trial run performances for family and friends.

Choose your performance outfit well ahead of time. Include everything, even shoes and socks! Do a trial run wearing your performance clothing.



Be sure to **get a good night's sleep** the night before, try to keep your schedule light on performance day, and eat a good meal a couple of hours be-



fore the recital.

Now that you're all set, be sure that you have a confidence-boosting attitude. **Think about your performance as sharing a musical gift.** You like music, and now it's your chance to share beautiful music, and to share how cool it is to play the piano!

If you are well prepared, you can turn those "butterflies" you might feel into positive energy, which will make your performance sparkle. Have a great recital!

Musical giants

Schubert, Grieg, Ravel, Stravinsky, Beethoven, and Mozart are considered musical giants. But what else did these giants have in common? They were short! Who were some of the tallest?

