

Becoming Dispensable: Developing Independent Learners

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Lesson as a Microcosm:

- Set goals
- Conceptualize the music
- Experience rhythm
- Choreograph positions
- Perform hands separately/hands together
- Self-evaluate

Practice Tips for Students:

- Create a routine
- Set daily goals
- Record yourself
- Practice in small segments multiple times a day
- Stop when you're tired

Tips for Teachers:

- Record students during lessons and incorporate self-evaluation
- Mid-week videos
- Create practice checklists for each piece
- Assign practice journals
- Collaborate! Borrow from other teachers

Quotable:

- “The most important mission of the piano teacher is to guide the practice toward the day when the student can become his own teacher. Working himself out of a job, as it were, the teacher should help the student meet his pianistic challenges until eventually the student makes himself independent of formal teaching.” - William S. Newman
- “The intelligent approach to practicing the piano requires that one learn how to practice, how to achieve the desired goal in the shortest possible time.” - Victor Seroff
- “And our ‘best’ is not what we happen to do casually, without hard trying, but that which we can only succeed in doing with every nerve alert and tingling on our work, in keenest and passionate endeavor to help our pupil to the utmost of our powers.” - Tobias Matthay
- “Every musical phrase which is played should constitute an exercise in ear training.” - James Friskin

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