

# The Art of Memorization

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## I. Types of Memory:

- Long Term Memory
- Short Term Memory
- Working Memory
- Sensory Memory

## II. Stages of Memory

- Encoding
- Consolidation
- Retrieval

## III. Types of Memory for Musicians

- Analytical
- Visual
- Aural
- Tactile

## IV. Deliberate vs Mindless Memorization

## V. Additional Memorization Strategies

- Come up with a 'memorization plan' - memorize small chunks at a time.
- Review newly memorized material every day.
- Play through the whole piece in your mind.
- Slow practice for fast, technical passages
- Have starting points.
- Write out troublesome memory spots on staff paper.
- Assign characters and emotions to musical gestures.

- Create visual images, vivid sets of scenes, characters, etc. to each phrase and section.
- Conceptualize the pieces as a trip you are taking.
- Test your memory by self-recording
- Practice/perform on as many different pianos as possible
- Perform by memory in tiered stake performances.
- Arrange run-throughs and practice sessions in different contexts.
- Stay healthy - sleep 8 hrs, eat well, exercise
- Come up with a 'memorization plan'
- Review newly memorized material every day.
- Play through the whole piece in your mind with all physical and musical expressions

### **References**

Walter Giesecking and Karl Leimer "Piano Technique"  
Joseph Levinne "Basic Principles in Pianoforte Playing"  
Noa Kageyama "Bulletproof Musician"  
Gerald Klickstein "The Musician's Way"

# Sonatina in C Major

op. 4, no. 1

Samuel Wesley  
(1766-1837)

use consistent  
fingerings

Allegretto ♩ = 72 - 78

**A**  
Cheerful

blocked chords

C: I IV I V<sup>7</sup> I IV

G up to A

**B**

minor major!

diminish! cresc. resolves to -

brighter again! but less...

surprise!

cadences - LH memory section transitions

full orchestra

For examinations, observe the repeat.  
Source: 12 Sonatinas for the Piano-forte or Harpsichord, op. 4

# Inventio 8

BWV 779

Water wheel, factory, machinery

call

response

I

3rds

4

diminution of main subject

chattery

6th apart - hands together, feel pulse

7

3rds

tumbling down!

6th apart again!

10

pick back up

inverted

pattern twists & turns

landed, wheew!

starts again, but in diff. key

∇/∇ ∇ (cadence!)

13

dim? chord!

something gone wrong!



Handwritten musical score for measures 16 through 31. The score is written in G minor (one flat) and includes several annotations in red and blue ink. Measure 16 is marked 'inverted' in green. Measure 19 has 'Aug 4th!' in red. Measure 22 is marked 'dim' in red. Measure 25 is marked '6ths!' in green. Measure 28 is marked 'IV of original key F' in red. Measure 31 is marked 'V I' in red. Blue lines and brackets indicate 'sequence' sections in measures 19-21, 22-24, and 25-27. A yellow highlight is present in measure 22. The score consists of a treble and bass clef system.

right side up

G minor!

Aug 4th!

sequence

d minor

Major!

dim

major

sequence

6ths!

IV of original key F

V I

# Prelude in E Minor

Op. 28, No. 4

Largo.

chromatic melody

quicker harmonic rhythms

*espress.*

bottom voice descending

top descending

bottom descending

back & forth

Jardins sous la pluie

雨中庭

Net et vif

blocked chord practice

3. *pp*

una corda (無Ped.)

Interval shrinks

6ths, diff. sonority

Aug 4th! build

back to minor

dissipates - diff touch

swirling

*pp*

wandering



blocked chords  
practising - tension resolution tension resolution

Musical score for measures 16-18. The bass clef system shows a sequence of chords with handwritten annotations. A purple circle highlights a chord in measure 16. Blue arrows point to specific notes in measures 16, 17, and 18. A blue chord diagram below the staff shows a D major chord (D-F-A) and a D-flat major chord (D-Fb-A). The score includes fingering numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) and asterisks indicating fingerings.

Musical score for measures 19-21. The system includes a treble clef system with a melodic line and a bass clef system with accompaniment. The instruction *poco cresc.* is written above the staff. The score includes fingering numbers and asterisks.

Musical score for measures 22-24. The system includes a treble clef system with a melodic line and a bass clef system with accompaniment. The instruction *molto cresc.* is written above the staff, and *f* (forte) is written above the final measure. The score includes fingering numbers and asterisks.

Musical score for measures 25-27. The system includes a treble clef system with a melodic line and a bass clef system with accompaniment. The instruction *dim.* (diminuendo) is written above the staff, followed by *molto*. The instruction *pp* (pianissimo) is written below the staff in measure 26. The instruction *una corde* (one string) is written below the staff in measure 27. The score includes fingering numbers and asterisks.

Musical score for measures 28-30. The system includes a treble clef system with a melodic line and a bass clef system with accompaniment. The score includes complex fingering numbers (e.g., 4 3 2, 4 3 2, 4 3 2, 4 3 2) and asterisks.



Fuga 21. â 3.

1 S  
voice 1

5 S  
voice 2  
Bb! (I)  
skips!

9 S  
voice 3  
inverted

13 S  
SI

17 sequence  
V  
g min (vi)  
SI

21 S