

# Memory Checklist

Try a few of these ideas while you work on memorizing your piece:

- Close the lid of the piano and try playing a section on the lid. Can you remember your fingering and rhythms without hearing the sound?
- Do you have chords marked in any sections of your music? Try blocking these chords while saying the chord names out loud. After a few times, go back to playing it normally and while thinking about the chords.
- Play a recording of the piece - then close your eyes and envision yourself playing at the piano. Try to play along on your lap or move your arms to the beat like a conductor. What do you like about this recording?
- Record yourself on a phone or iPad (sound only or video). Then listen to the playback. Mark any parts in your music that need more work. Add smiley faces to parts you played well!
- Play each hand separately from memory. How did you do? Was one hand weaker? Work on anything you find needs work and try again.
- Close your eyes and play through the piece or section. Try to focus less on fingering or worry about a certain spot. Instead listen for the phrasing and musicality of your playing.
- Tricky LH spot? Find a pattern to the movement and say it out loud. For example, "Low C up to E, then F, down to Bb up to D, then Eb..." Play and say it out loud several times to help you remember that section.
- Grab a highlighter to mark any patterns & themes throughout. How often does the A section come back? Any cool patterns that keep appearing? Make sure you know the form of the piece and how the composer developed the theme.
- Make a memory map on the back of this page. (If you need help with a memory map ask your teacher).

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