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Musical Tip Sheet

The Big 5:

- Reduce work with posture and a positive attitude
- Troubleshoot Everything should be easy
- Breathe
- Trust yourself to play accurately and musically inspired (instead of judging)
- 5. Always play as a gift to yourself and others

The 7 Steps to Learn Any Piece:

- 1. Make small sections
- 2. Know all the notes and musical markings
- Clap and count the rhythm aloud
- Play the right hand alone, counting aloud
- 5. Play the left hand alone, counting aloud
- Play hands together, pausing when needed (no mistakes!)
- 7. Play hands together slowly in rhythm, counting aloud

Musical Starting Points:

- Decide which notes are melody (probably stems up), and play the others quieter
- 2. Connect all melody notes smoothly (no gaps)
- 3. When a musical line or melody goes up in pitch, get quieter
- 4. When a musical line or melody goes down in pitch, get louder
- Don't let the high notes stand out (any note higher than the ones before and after)

Practice Tips:

- Before slowing down or speeding up (rubato) master it at a steady pace.
- For tricky spots, state out loud exactly what the problem is, in every detail.
- Memorize every piece (even if you don't, you'll learn it faster if you try)
- Have a purpose behind each repetition (so you don't ingrain bad habits).
- 5. Video yourself for performance practice, and to hear what is working.

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