
Music “à la Mode”: Sensory Learning Preferences

Visual, Auditory, and Kinesthetic Modalities

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Thanksgiving Point
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- A. General Characteristics
- B. Musical Characteristics
- C. Teacher Characteristics
- D. Teaching Techniques

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Piano Student Questionnaire

Name _____ Date _____

Directions: Most of these questions have to do with your piano lessons. Please circle the one answer that best describes you.

1. I remember something from a lesson best if:

- A. the teacher shows me a diagram, chart, picture, writes something down, or shows me how to do something so I can see it first.
- B. the teacher plays something on the piano so I can hear it first.
- C. the teacher makes me try it myself without explaining too much.

2. When practicing a piece, I:

- A. pay the most attention to reading the notes on the page as I play.
- B. pay the most attention to how the music sounds as I play.
- C. pay the most attention to the patterns of the music, how my hands or body move, or how I feel as I play.

3. I know when I play a wrong note because:

- A. I can see by the notes on the page that I didn't play the right note.
- B. I can just hear that it was the wrong note.
- C. I can feel that my fingers didn't move to the right key or that my hand didn't move to the right position on the keys.

4. When I practice, I:

- A. like to look at my assignment book to read and follow the instructions.
- B. remember what the teacher asked me to practice *without* looking at my assignment book, and make sure to practice those things.
- C. sort of remember what the teacher asked me to do, and practice whatever I feel like playing at the moment.

5. When I am counting the beats as I play, I:

- A. don't move my body or count to myself. I just somehow know that I'm playing the beats correctly.
- B. like to count the beats out loud or say them to myself in my head.
- C. feel the need to move my body, head, or hands to "feel" the beat.

6. Learning a new piece is easiest when:

- A. I can just read the notes and play the music.
- B. I can first hear what it's supposed to sound like.
- C. I can first know what it's about or what feelings it's supposed to express.

7. When I practice, I am most easily distracted by:

- A. anything I see around me, such as a nearby window or someone coming into the room.
- B. any other noises I hear, such as people talking or the TV.
- C. my need to take a lot of breaks to get up and move around, because it's hard to sit at the piano for a long time.

8. When the teacher is happy with how I played a song, I like it best when she shows me this through:

- A. her facial expressions and eye contact with me.
- B. her tone of voice and what she says.
- C. giving me a high-five, a pat on the back, or how she moves her hands or arms.

9. When I hear a new song on the radio, I am most likely to remember:

- A. what pictures popped into my head or what I was looking at as I listened.
- B. some of the words or how the voice or instruments sounded.
- C. what I was doing or how I felt as I listened.

10. For me, one of the easiest things about playing the piano is:

- A. reading the notes on the page.
- B. listening for the right places to change the dynamics (loud/soft).
- C. getting comfortable with the hand positions and finger patterns

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Heller, Op. 45 No. 2, "The Avalanche," mm. 1-16

The image displays two systems of musical notation for the piano accompaniment of Heller's Op. 45 No. 2, "The Avalanche." The first system is marked "Allegro vivace" and "mf". It consists of two staves, treble and bass clef. The music features a driving eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more complex bass line with triplets and slurs. Pedaling instructions "Ped: *" are placed below the bass staff at measures 1, 3, and 5. The second system is marked "poco meno mosso" and also consists of two staves. It continues the piece with a change in tempo and dynamics. Pedaling instructions "Ped: *" are placed below the bass staff at measure 11. The score includes various musical notations such as triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings.

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