

# Pensive Practice

## Guidelines

### Notes

Pensive Practice is a set of cards designed to enhance practice time for intermediate to advanced students. These cards are designed to be used by adult and teenage piano students, younger students may need a parent's or teacher's help to read the cards. Students should already be familiar with the terms below to use all the cards successfully.

### Abbreviations Used

- LH = Left Hand
- RH = Right Hand
- HT = Hands Together
- *p* = piano (softly)
- *f* = forte (loudly)
- *pp* = pianissimo (very softly)
- *ff* = fortissimo (very loudly)

### Terms Used

- Arpeggio
- Major pentascales (five finger scale patterns)
- Staccato
- Legato
- Articulation
- Accent
- Beat
- Lyrics
- Rhythm
- Interval
- Musical form
- Syncopated rhythm
- Motif
- Pulse
- Fallboard
- Melody
- Semitone/half step
- Bar/measure
- Octave
- Dynamic markings
- Chords
- Root note
- Cadence

### Materials Needed

Most of the cards do not require any extra materials, however for full use of some cards you may need the following:

- Pencil
- Coloured pencils
- Post-it notes
- Blank staff paper/blank manuscript
- Tracing paper (or any other transparent paper)
- Recording equipment (such as a smartphone)
- Metronome (or metronome app)

### Suggestions for Use

The Pensive Practice cards are very adaptable, below are just a few ways they could be used.

1. Students can use these as a complete set to draw from randomly during their practice time. One per day, or just whenever they feel their practice growing monotonous and mindless.
2. Piano teachers could keep a complete set, sending a few randomly or selectively drawn cards home with the student each week, and exchanging them at the following lesson.
3. During lesson time a card could be drawn at random and the student and teacher could work on it together.
4. Teachers could assign 5/6 cards from one "theme" at each lesson, as the student progresses through the piece. First Jumble, then Rhythm, then Theory, then Style and finally Memory; each set given in this manner would be progressively more challenging.