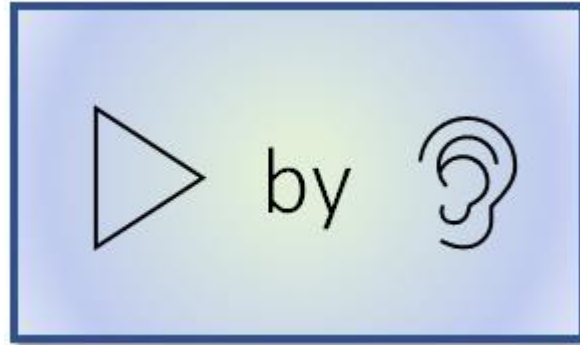


# Becoming a Melody Player



Part III – Motivation / Intuitive Playing / Effective Practice



# Thoughts on the Journey

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- Goal: Working towards connecting the jukebox in your brain to your fingers so you can play melody without conscious thought.
- Ear training and practice will enable you to make that connection.
- You will have to “think your way through” at first, but it will slowly become more and more automatic.
- Don’t *think* more, ***play*** more!



# Motivation

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- This week, let's tap into your motivation to play.
- What song(s) / styles / artists captured your imagination?
- What are your musical goals?
- Action Item: incorporate your goal song(s) into your practice routine.

# This Week: Less Talk / More Playing

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“The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing.”

*Walt Disney*



# Warm Up Exercises in G Major

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- Exercise 1: G major scale up and back down: 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8
- Exercise 2: 1-2-3-2-1, 2-3-4-3-2, 3-4-5-4-3 ...
- Exercise 3: The “magic” exercise: 1-2-3-1, 2-3-4-2, 3-4-5-3...

# Echo Game: G Major / 3 Note Phrases

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- Listen as I play it 3 times
- Sing it before you play it
- Play in time
- Repeat the phrase 3 times
- Wait for the next phrase

# Echo Game: G Major / 4 Note Phrases

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- Same game as before, but we will now work in four note phrases.
- Many songs are made up of four-note “Lego” blocks that make up a “measure” of music.

# Let's Play Some Songs

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- “Frame the Song” by playing the I – IV – V chords
- Sing the starting note “La”. Find your starting note on your instrument by playing up the scale until your instrument matches your voice.
- Listen for one-note jumps in the melody and jumps of more than one note.



# Simple Songs for Melody Practice

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- Here are some simple, one-octave songs you already have in the “jukebox in your head”.
  - London bridge is falling down
  - Mary had a little lamb
  - Row, row, row your boat
  - The bear went over the mountain
  - Three blind mice
  - Twinkle, twinkle little star

# Simple Songs for Melody Practice

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- Here are some more simple songs that span more than one octave:
  - Amazing grace
  - B-i-n-g-o
  - Home on the range
  - If you're happy and you know it
  - Itsy-bitsy spider
  - Ode to joy
  - Oh, my darlin' Clementine
  - Old MacDonald
  - Pop goes the weasel

# Simple Songs for Melody Practice

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- These simple songs span more than one octave:
  - She'll be comin' round the mountain
  - Skip to my lou
  - Sloop John B (chorus)
  - The farmer in the dell
  - There's a hole in the bottom of the sea
  - This land is your land
  - Yankee doodle went to town
  - You are my sunshine

# Practice Tips

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- Warm up with what you know already, then play what you don't know.
- Have a list of areas you want to improve in: technique, speed, repertoire, etc.
- Don't learn the wrong thing; play slowly and accurately. Speed will come with time.
- Remember to Listen, Sing and Play
- Finish with something FUN that you REALLY WANT to play!

# Homework!

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- Work on your “inspiration song(s)”.
- Bring something to share next week.
- Play some of the simple songs in the key of D major, then in the key of G major.