The layers of preparation essential to achieving...

**RECITAL SUCCESS**

1. Get a concept for each work
   - Make decisions about style, phrasing, dynamics, and characters/moods
   - Study the historical background of the work and composer, analyze the harmonies, and listen to multiple recordings

   **ASK YOURSELF:** Do I have a cohesive, convincing musical statement with integrity?

2. Practice to the point of excellence
   - Areas of focus: pitch stability, tempo consistency, technical solidity, and beauty of tone with a consistent line

   **ASK YOURSELF:** Is it beautifully played with excellence in all areas?

3. Practice for endurance and consistency
   - Play through each work three times in a row 2-3 weeks before the recital

   **ASK YOURSELF:** Is it beautifully played each time with consistency and minimal mistakes?

4. Practice for ensemble needs
   - Learn the piano score and its relation to the solo part
   - Record rehearsals and lessons with the pianist and study the recordings with the piano score

   **ASK YOURSELF:** Am I solid with ensemble considerations, including balance, tempo consistency, and performance communication, while maintaining a cohesive musical statement?

5. Prepare for reed needs
   - Begin setting aside exceptional reeds three weeks before the recital
   - Plan to have two good reeds made specifically for the needs of each work (qualifying in response, intonation placement, and tonal beauty)

   **ASK YOURSELF:** Am I making enough good reeds to supply for the needs of the recital?

6. Prepare for performance needs
   - Learn how to control nerves
   - Visualize what would constitute performing a “great recital”

   **ASK YOURSELF:** Have I performed my program for other people and simulated a performance situation in my practicing?

   Think beautifully...
   Play beautifully...
   Strive for professionalism...
   And **enjoy** the recital experience!

**You are now prepared!**