

Dynamic Design

Music is the soil that the spirit lives, thinks and invents in... ~ Beethoven

Dynamics are energy levels. Dynamic energy effects us in all kinds of ways. In music, **symbols** are used to express different kinds of energetic, **dynamic designs**. There are an **infinite number** of dynamics levels **between these**.

Here are the most common: (Also, use a + or - for more or less on any of these dynamic markings)

pp = pianissimo = very soft **p** = piano = soft

mp = mezzo piano = medium soft **mf** = mezzo forte = medium strong, loud, full sound

f = forte = strong, loud, very full sound **ff** = fortissimo = very strong, loud, fullest sound

Notice the **Dynamic Design** in the **piece, movement, part, phrase** of the music you are playing:

1. **Look at** the whole movement. **Find the dynamics markings**. If there are none, mark in a basic outline for dynamics.
2. **Find the Design!** Write them down on a piece of paper or on this Practice Recipe Card. **Look for the shape** that the dynamics create. Where do they start? Where is the loudest, the softest? What dynamic does the piece **begin** and **end** on?
3. **Use a full range of dynamics** to create the flow of energy in your piece. Are you jumping into a dynamic **instead of gradually getting there?** Is there a **sudden change**, instead of gradual, that you need to make happen?
Use a full range of dynamics, instead of just playing it safe.
4. You can do **1-3** with any phrase or part of the music you are working with on the **Dynamic Design**.

More Ideas: Mark your music in dynamic colors. Try using a specific color for each dynamic. Also, use a + or - for more or less .

Listen: to **CD's of Gidon Kremer, Violin** **Marta Argerich, Piano** **Look:** [Piazzolla - Gidon Kremer & Marta Argerich](#)

By Heart

There's music in the sighing of a reed, There's music in the gushing of a rill; There's music in all things, if men had ears:
Their earth is but an echo of the spheres. ~ Lord Byron

Choose a part of your music to learn from memory each day.

Learn your Major scales. Then your Arpeggios. Next, your Minor scales in all 3 forms; Natural, Harmonic and Melodic. Then learn your Thirds in Major & Minor. Learning these builds up your memory muscle. It is a muscle you have to exercise it!

Select a piece to memorize. :

1. Listen (Ear) to your piece while looking (Eyes) at the music.
2. Map out a plan for memorizing each section. When do you need to have it memorized? How long will it take you?
3. Play (Feels) the part you are learning while looking (Eyes) at the music, 3 times. Focusing on: 1st, how it looks 2nd, how it sounds (Ear). 3rd, how it feels to play it.
4. Now try it with your eyes closed. Can you visualize the music in your head? Can you feel it in your hands, whole body? Do you know the sound of it clearly by heart? This takes a lot of focus and attention to all the details.

Be persistent & patient. Sometimes this comes naturally and for others it takes more time to learn by heart. One is not better than the other. Learn how much time you need to play a piece confidently by heart. You can do it!

More Ideas: Use your Flash Card Technique (p. 19) Ideas too! **Look:** Aleksandr Haskin, flute