



STUCK?

Here's what to do...

STUCK?

Every student most days will get stuck or not understand something with a new activity, piece or even new part. This is normal and part of learning. Don't cry, vomit, have a tantrum and give up. Try these first:

RHYMES

Use your treble or bass clef notes to work out even the first two or three notes in the tricky section, then add another 2-3 notes each day.

FINGERING

Your music is there to help, it's your answer sheet and cheat sheet all rolled into one. A fiddly bit is usually a problem because of the fingering. What finger does your music tell you to use?

HANDS TOGETHER

Putting hands together is not easy most times. Don't try to do all of it at once! Do it in small bits for example right hand with just the first left hand note in each bar.

PIZZA PLAYING

Cut your pizza (piece) into slices (one line, or even one bar) and bite-chew-swallow that piece (play that bit over and over until it flows and you don't hesitate or stumble. Then have another slice.

HOW MUCH AT HOME?

Forget about timing yourself. Play every single day, and do one small bit from each piece until you have fixed it or added one small new bit.

EMAIL

Check your email for that week's work and check the date! I usually write goals, suggestions and activities for each piece.

PHONE

Phone me your question or problem. If I don't answer, send a text.

TEXT

Text me your question or problem.

DECODE MY SHORTHAND

HT = hands together

(play both hands at the same time)

HS = hands separately

RH = right hand

LH = left hand.

BACKINGS

The end goal is to play each piece with the backing, **eventually**. When first learning a piece, or early on in the week, the backing can be used for familiarisation rather than to play along with. This may mean just listening and reading the music. Students should play without the backing, and only add it when what they are playing closely resembles what they hear on the backing.

DO THE BITS YOU KNOW

Play and sing or listen and sing to with the backing and leave out the hard part. Sometimes just hearing the hard part can help some students tackle it after a day or two.

THE HARD BITS

Don't try to do the entire hard or new bit, just do part of it (one bar, one hand, etc) for that week. We can always add the rest the following week.

LEAVE SOME OUT

Leave out the hard part or one hand and do the rest, then write a message for me in pencil on your music so you remember to phone/text or ask next lesson.