

1. *Advanced Playing Concepts Series Part 2*

- a. *Always be creative and let yourself go*- This may sound like a given but you have to always be creative in order to progress your playing. You have to always be pushing the boundaries. By doing this you will force yourself to open up and truly find what you want to express. If you settle with what you know you can play you will always stay at the same level. Always strive to be creative no matter what you are playing.

- b. *Never play the same thing twice if you can help it* - This is a great way to stay creative. It is very difficult to achieve but if you can adopt this thought process you will constantly get better. You will obviously play things twice, but you want to always strive to express yourself naturally. That's the point of this exercise. You want to have complete freedom over the piano. Try not to simply insert licks or lines you've learned for the heck of it. You want to always play what's inside of you.

- c. *Have intention for every note you play* - The more intention you can bring to your playing the better it will sound without changing any notes. Intention and confidence can make a single note sound like the greatest thing anyone's heard. This is one of the big reasons people ask me, "Brenden, I'm playing the same thing but it doesn't sound as good." Well that's because you don't have a relationship with the music you are playing. You need to have your own connection with certain notes, harmonies and lines. When you start to develop that relationship the intention behind notes and movements will and come and your playing will have a greater depth to it.

- d. *Always make music* - Never, ever sacrifice the music. You always want to ensure the creation and beauty of the music comes first. Meaning just because something is difficult and sounds cool doesn't mean it will be the best music. You need to play within your means and always strive to create the most

beautiful music you can at whatever level you are at. This is how music touches ourselves and others.