What is Mapping?

- A technique for learning and memorizing music more efficiently. Use with any instrument, any stage of learning, any level.
- Draw a “map” showing key features of a piece or section. For specific memory problems, include only what you need to play that part without the music.
- Drawing the map promotes mental organization, making memorization easier.
- Mapping reinforces theory, improvisation, analysis, and reading skills.
- Maps provide insight into a student’s learning process.
- Combine with other strategies. Reduce the likelihood of overuse injuries.

How we use mapping in our teaching and performing:

1. **Overview a piece before practice.**
   - Identify main sections, themes, keys, harmonies, textures, etc., as appropriate.
   - Use any symbols that help you – or make up your own.
   - Use a blank sheet of paper or Colgin’s memory-map template

2. **Solve specific problems in learning and/or memorizing a piece.**
   - For longer works, focus on a single section or element where needed - rhythm, harmony, etc.

3. **Develop quick-learning skills: Map a short, simple piece away from the instrument.** (Shockley)
   - Students first listen to the piece. They follow the score and imagine playing it.
   - They then draw a quick map, then see how much they can play from their map.
   - If they forget, they can make up (improvise) something like it, then check the score.

4. **Provide a resource for students with reading challenges or dysfunction** (Colgin)
   - Individuals with strong eye muscles tend to be good readers (and resist memorizing)
   - Those with weak muscles, slow to focus, and dyslexics find mapping helpful for learning (personal experience)

5. **Full-time job means less practice time for the professional musician.** (Colgin)
   - Makes practice more efficient, raises intellectual memory
   - Maps made years earlier can help restore memory when relearning.

Examples of Piano Maps (Shockley)

- Basic Map (Early Level): Bartok *Hungarian Folk Song*
- Overview of a Longer Work: Schumann *Whims*
- Mapping Away from the Piano: Hartsell *Moonlit Shores* and Schytte *Etude*
- Mapping Ornaments: Chopin *Nocturne*, op. 9 no. 3
- Skeleton Map: Schubert *Impromptu*, op. 90 no. 4 (Trio)
• Mapping Complex Chords: Ginastera Creole Dance
• Mapping Complex Rhythms: Copland Piano Variations
• Completing Memorization: Beethoven Sonata, op. 14 no. 1. Rondo

Student Maps:
• Köhler: Andante, Bach Prelude in c minor, Kabalevsky Folk Dance, Brahms Capriccio.

Mapping a Song Text (for singers):
• A. Scarlatti Se Florindo è fidele ("If Florindo is faithful")

Examples of beginning maps for single-line instrument (Colgin):
• Scale study with static pattern throughout 12 major and minor keys. (Taffanel-Gaubert)
• Chromatic-scale study: octave streams by beginning on diatonic chord tones, 1-3-5, etc. (Moyse)

Memory-Map template (Colgin)
• Simple melody using memory map template: 4-bar phrasing, a-b-a form
• Difficult orchestral passage: Glazunov Violin Concerto, (cambiata sequences written as diminished 3rds)
• Concerto movement in double-exposition form, mapped more extensively (Mozart, K. 313, I)

Selected Bibliography on Mapping


Websites: The Memory Map for Music
www.memorymapformusic.com
(www.thememorymap.org)