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THE EFFECIANCY OF MEMORIZING PIANO PIECE IN
HELPING PIANO STUDENTS TO PERFORM IN
FACULTY OF MUSIC, UTM SHAH ALAM

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DECLARATION OF AUTHORSHIP

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the result of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledge as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution for any degree or qualification.

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CHAPTER 1

1.1 Background of Study

Musicians are expected to perform by memory. Society and audience within certain musical genre believes that performing with notated sheet music are unbelievable (Ginsborg, 2004) This also applies for pianists. Tomassini (1999) stated that it is to be expected that all recital for solo piano is to be performed from memory except for contemporary music. It seems to be the general consensus for pianist is to perform by memory.

Although it is general for musicians to perform music by memory, it is still extremely hard for the performers to do so. Williamon (2002) stated that before performers have to perform by memory in a stressful situation, performers had to start with memorizing the music piece which consists of complex musical structure and the notes.

The view on memorizing, differs from performers and audience. For performers, memorizing their pieces seems to help them in terms of enhancing their musicality and freedom of expression. Rather than refering the sheet music, it is convincing to use direct eye contact, for expression purpose, with and audience which performers can only do by memorizing (Williamon, 2002). Playing by memory also helps the performer to see the audience's reaction towards his performance simultaneously making the performance interactive.

Currently, research on effeciancy of memorizing piano for performace mainly focuses on professional musicians. There is only a small in number of studies made on piano students. There is also no specific research made on facts that memorizing can help piano students to perform. Hence, the purpose of study is to investigate further on the effeciancy of memorizing piano for helping the piano students to perform.

1.2 Problem Statement

For many years, piano students are facing problems where they have difficulty in memorizing. Due to public and audience's view on how performers should memorize their piece, many teachers asks their students to memorize their pieces before they perform. According to Tommasini (1999) it is obligated by teachers who believe in

convention ways, peoples who aspect high level of performance and judges who assumes that the piece is not thoroughly learned if it is not memorized.

This also a problem for many piano students where some of the colleges and conservatories requires their student to perform by memory. For example, at University of North Texas' undergraduate audition for all three categories of piano study which are Performance, Pedagogy, and Concentration, they require the pianist to perform by memory. The student might be devastated because of the inquires and this may destroy their start in learning music.

Thus, the present study seeks to investigate efficiency of memorizing piano piece in helping piano students to perform and to identify ways of memorizing. Other than that, how piano students overcome their memorizing problem will also investigated.

1.3 Research Objectives

The objectives of the study are:

1. To investigate the efficiancy of memorizing piano piece in helping piano students to perform.
2. To identify the various ways of memorizing piano piece for piano students
3. To find out how piano students overcome their memorizing problems

1.4 Reseach Questions

The research questions of this study are:

1. What are the effect of memorizing piano piece in helping piano students to perform?
2. What are the memorization techniques used by pianists?
3. What kind of performance challenges do pianists face and how do they affect their playing?
4. How do pianists overcome their memorizing problems?

1.5 Significance of Study

The main purpose of this study is to provide more information on the effeciacy of memorizing piano piece in helping piano students to perform. Therefore, this study is important and significant to music students with piano as their major instrument. Students can use the findings of this study to be a guideline for the study in memorizing