



# 40 Piece Challenge

## **Repertoire Rich:**

**Incorporating the 40 Piece Challenge Into Your Piano Studio**

**Benjamin Steinhardt, presenter**

## Questions and Discussion:

What is the “Repertoire Rich” approach?

How did Elissa Milne come up with the “40 Piece Challenge?”

What are the benefits of a “Repertoire Rich” approach?

- a. It prevents boredom
- b. It boosts confidence
- c. It improves reading skills
- d. It develops broader musicianship
- e. It leads to happiness

What kinds of students is the challenge best suited for?

How do I effectively begin a repertoire challenge in my studio?

- a. Mix up the difficulty levels
- b. Give fewer choices than normal
- c. Encourage students to make suggestions
- d. Create repertoire lists
- e. Have a visual representation of accomplishments

f. Budgeting for a challenge

Setting Standards:

1. Expect a high level of achievement
2. Start with a slew of material
3. Set expectations
4. Assign challenges
5. Don't be afraid to give up on a piece

30? 40? or 100?

Thinking beyond “pieces”: what constitutes a learning experience?

- A. Transposition
- B. Rearrangement
- C. Composition and improvisation
- D. Mashup/medley
- E. Duet parts and bass lines

Choosing Repertoire:

- A. Repertoire as scaffolding
- B. Repertoire as ownership
- C. Repertoire as propaganda
- D. Repertoire as values

The Challenge for Teachers

## 40 Piece Challenge Resources

### Articles and Blog Posts:

<https://elissamilne.com/tag/40-piece-challenge/>

A series of blog posts by Elissa Milne on the 40 Piece Challenge

<https://40piecechallenge.com.au>

Hal Leonard Australia's official site

<https://crosseyedpianist.com/2015/03/22/the-40-piece-challenge-a-personal-piano-journey/>

Popular blogger “The Cross-eyed Pianist’s” personal journey undertaking the challenge

<https://topmusic.co/75-pieces-in-one-year-how-ben-went-from-beginner-to-grade-2-in-10-months/>

Tim Topham’s blog

### Downloadable Materials:

<https://composecreate.com/30-piece-challenge-new-charts-cards-and-checklists/>

Wendy Stevens has created a plethora of charts, cards, and checklists

50 Piece Wall Chart and Individual Chart

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/review?>

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<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/review?>

[uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:d088978c-4252-4525-a682-053136373a0f](https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:d088978c-4252-4525-a682-053136373a0f)

<https://colourfulkeys.ie/40-piece-challenge/>

Printable stamp card

<https://topmusic.co/40-pieces-coffee-card-and-where-to-find-more-repertoire/>

Tim Topham’s “coffee card”



## **Recommended Repertoire**

### **Short Pieces:**

70 Keyboard Adventures with the Little Monster (2 volumes) *Edition Breitkopf*

Tio, the Little Keyboard Man - *Kirsten Stecke Edition Breitkopf*

Pageants for Piano- *Donald Waxman*

### **Fun and Jazzy:**

Pepperbox Jazz - *Elissa Milne*

MicroJazz - *Christopher Norton*

Supersonics- *Daniel McFarlane*

Jazz, Rags, and Blues - *Martha Mier*

A Day in the Life of... *Sonny Chua*

Big Time and Play Time series- *Faber*

### **Rote Repertoire:**

Little Gems - *Paula Dreyer (advanced primer with Marilyn Lowe)*

Solo Flight - *Elvina Pearce*

Repertoire By Rote - *Alexander & Greer*

*Technique and Rote Pieces - Piano Safari*

### **Patterns, Improvisations, and Arranging**

Pattern Play, Chord Play, Puzzle Play, Create First - *Forrest Kinney*

Patterns For Fun - *Paul Scheftel*

### **Recommended Composers:**

Little Peppers - *Elissa Milne*

Many Collections - *June Armstrong*

Attention Grabbers - *Diane Hidy*

Preludes in Romantic Style - *William Gillock*

The Creeps, Beware the Jabberwok - *Jason Sifford*

Museum Masterpieces - *Catherine Rollin*

Safari - *John Robert Poe*

A Day in the Jungle/Forest - *Jon George*

“Beans” Series - *Ben Crosland*

### **Teacher- Student Duets:**

Melodious Pieces on Five Notes -  
*Diabelli*

46 Miniatures for Piano Four Hands -  
*Godowsky*

### **20th/21th Century Explorations-**

Jatekok - *Kurtag*

The 20th Century - *Schirmer Performance Editions*

### **Composers of Color:**

Piano Music of Africa and The African  
Diaspora - *William Nyaho ed.*

Portraits in Jazz - *Valerie Capers*

Six Short Essays - *Ulysses Kay*  
Music For Children - *William Grant Still*

Piano Collection - *Florence Price*

Japanese Festival - *Yoshinao Nakada*

Guia Practica - *Villa Lobos*

Children’s Festival - *Octavio Pinto*

### **Folk Song Collections:**

Indian Ragas - *John Pitts .ed*

*Hal Leonard Folk Song Collections*

### **Classical collections:**

*RCM Celebration Series*

*Faber Developing Artist*

The Keyboard Crocodile - *Edition Breitkopf*

Ponies - *Edition Breitkopf*

Toll In Moll - *Edition Breitkopf*



# Upcoming Events

Halloween piano party (?)

Sophia's Bday: September 30th!

## Before playing

- Bench Height
- feet planted
- natural hand
- shoulders rested
- sitting tall

Rote Pieces = Pink

Big Pieces = Green

Little Pieces/sight reading = yellow

Technique/patterns = Blue

Improv/composition = Orange

## 40 Piece Challenge

- Lauren - 6
- Madelyn - 2
- Drew -
- Kunj -
- Nathan - 3

# Rich Repertoire Challenge

50

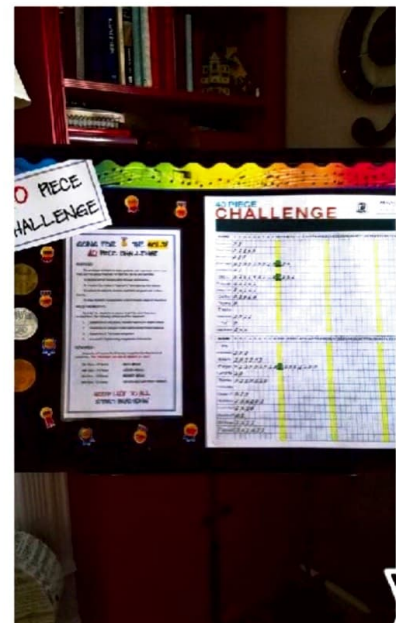
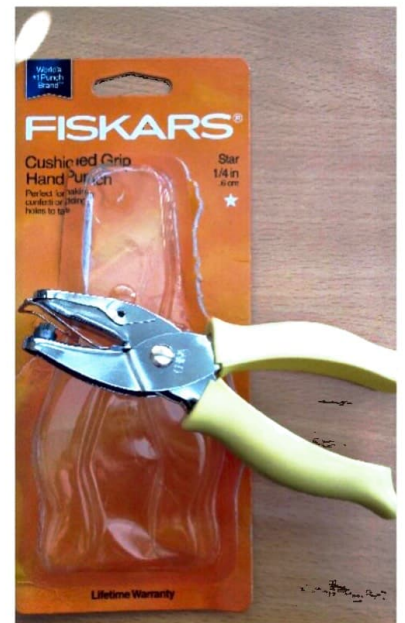
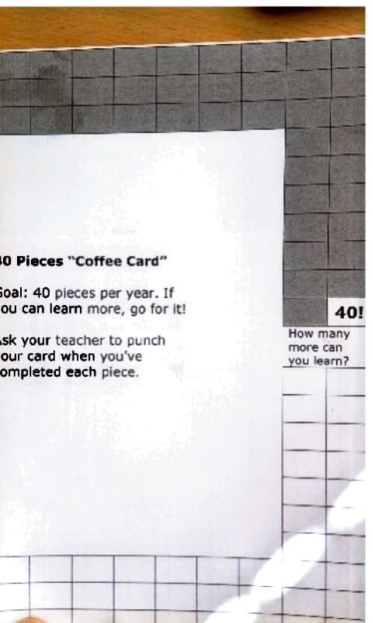
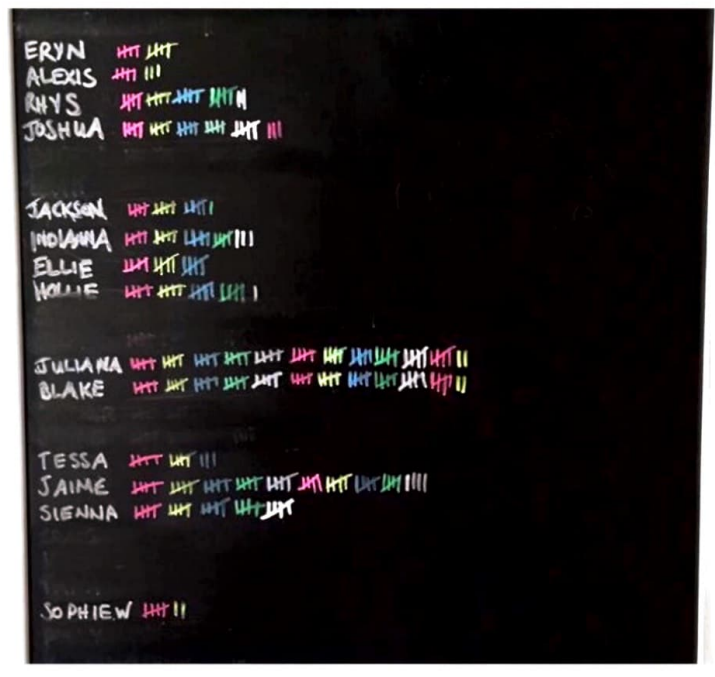
75

100

- Richard - 6
- Lucie - 7
- Nathaniel - 5
- Gema - 4
- BEN - 7
- Mikey - 8
- Mg - 10

- Joseph - 5
- Jackson - 7
- Stephan - 8

- Felicity - 1
- Ava - 3
- Max - 9
- Rachel - 8
- Catherine -
- Sophia - 5
- Nina - 8
- Mia - 2


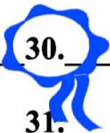






# 40-Piece Challenge



for: \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. _____  | 21. _____   |
| 2. _____  | 22. _____   |
| 3. _____  | 23. _____   |
| 4. _____  | 24. _____   |
| 5. _____  | 25. _____   |
| 6. _____  | 26. _____   |
| 7. _____  | 27. _____   |
| 8. _____  | 28. _____   |
| 9. _____  | 29. _____   |
|  10. _____ |  30. _____ |
| 11. _____   | 31. _____   |
| 12. _____   | 32. _____   |
| 13. _____   | 33. _____   |
| 14. _____   | 34. _____   |
| 15. _____   | 35. _____   |
| 16. _____   | 36. _____   |
| 17. _____   | 37. _____   |
| 18. _____   | 38. _____   |
| 19. _____   | 39. _____   |
|  20. _____ |  40. _____ |

**Your list must include:**

- \*Quick Study Pieces*
- \*Just Right Pieces*
- \*Stretch Pieces*

**Pieces must be played accurately & musically:**

- |                |                      |                  |
|----------------|----------------------|------------------|
| <i>*Notes</i>  | <i>*Dynamics</i>     | <i>*Balance</i>  |
| <i>*Rhythm</i> | <i>*Articulation</i> | <i>*Style</i>    |
| <i>*Tempo</i>  | <i>*Fingerings</i>   | <i>*Phrasing</i> |

# 50 PIECE CHALLENGE

	<b>Baroque</b>			<b>Chord Chart</b>	
<b>1</b>			<b>19</b>		
<b>2</b>			<b>20</b>		
<b>3</b>				<b>Other Pieces</b>	
	<b>Classical</b>		<b>21</b>		
<b>4</b>			<b>22</b>		
<b>5</b>			<b>23</b>		
<b>6</b>			<b>24</b>		
	<b>Romantic</b>		<b>25</b>		
<b>7</b>			<b>26</b>		
<b>8</b>			<b>27</b>		
<b>9</b>			<b>28</b>		
	<b>Contemporary</b>		<b>29</b>		
<b>10</b>			<b>30</b>		
<b>11</b>			<b>31</b>		
<b>12</b>			<b>32</b>		
	<b>Popular/Movie</b>		<b>33</b>		
<b>13</b>			<b>34</b>		
<b>14</b>			<b>35</b>		
<b>15</b>			<b>36</b>		
	<b>Ensemble</b>		<b>37</b>		
<b>16</b>			<b>38</b>		
<b>17</b>			<b>39</b>		
<b>18</b>			<b>40</b>		

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!!**

**Keep up the great work...Can you get to 50?**

<b>41</b>			<b>46</b>		
<b>42</b>			<b>47</b>		
<b>43</b>			<b>48</b>		
<b>44</b>			<b>49</b>		
<b>45</b>			<b>50</b>		



**40**  
*Pieces*

THE

**PIANO**

**40 PIECE**  
*Challenge*

TEACHER

*Congratulations!*

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Student's Name

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Teacher's Name

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Date

THE  
**PIANO**

TEACHER

**Congratulations!**

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Student's Name

ON COMPLETING

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**Pieces**

**40 Piece  
Challenge**

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Teacher's Name

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Date