

# **MEMORIZING MUSIC and TEACHING MEMORIZATION**

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*Revised for String Players by Helen Fall*

## The Four Main Types of Memorization

- Visual
- Aural
- Tactile/motor
- Conscious/intellectual

## Memorizing actively and maintaining memorization

- Phrase by phrase memorization: four measures with music, four measures memorized.
- Maintaining ("practicing") memorization:
  1. Slow carefully read-through once
  2. Moderate speed run-through memorized
  3. Performance speed read-through
  4. Performance speed run-through memorized
  5. Performance speed read-through
- Performance savers: safety measures

## Specific Memory Challenges

- Bach (or other contrapuntal works) with undefined phrase beginnings & endings
- Non-tactile things (big leaps, awkward fingerings)
- Concentration lapses – phrases that start the same but end differently
  - "WRONG TURNS!"

## Narciso's Top Tips (Highlights):

- START EARLY – deadline for memorization: four weeks before performance time
- Slow, musical read-through every day for security, nerves, and memory
- Strengthen long-term memory through alternating memorized practice with reading the music: eye to brain imprint stronger.
- Practice sight-reading
  1. Bottom to top reading
  2. Keep the pulse going no matter what
  3. Non-stop counting