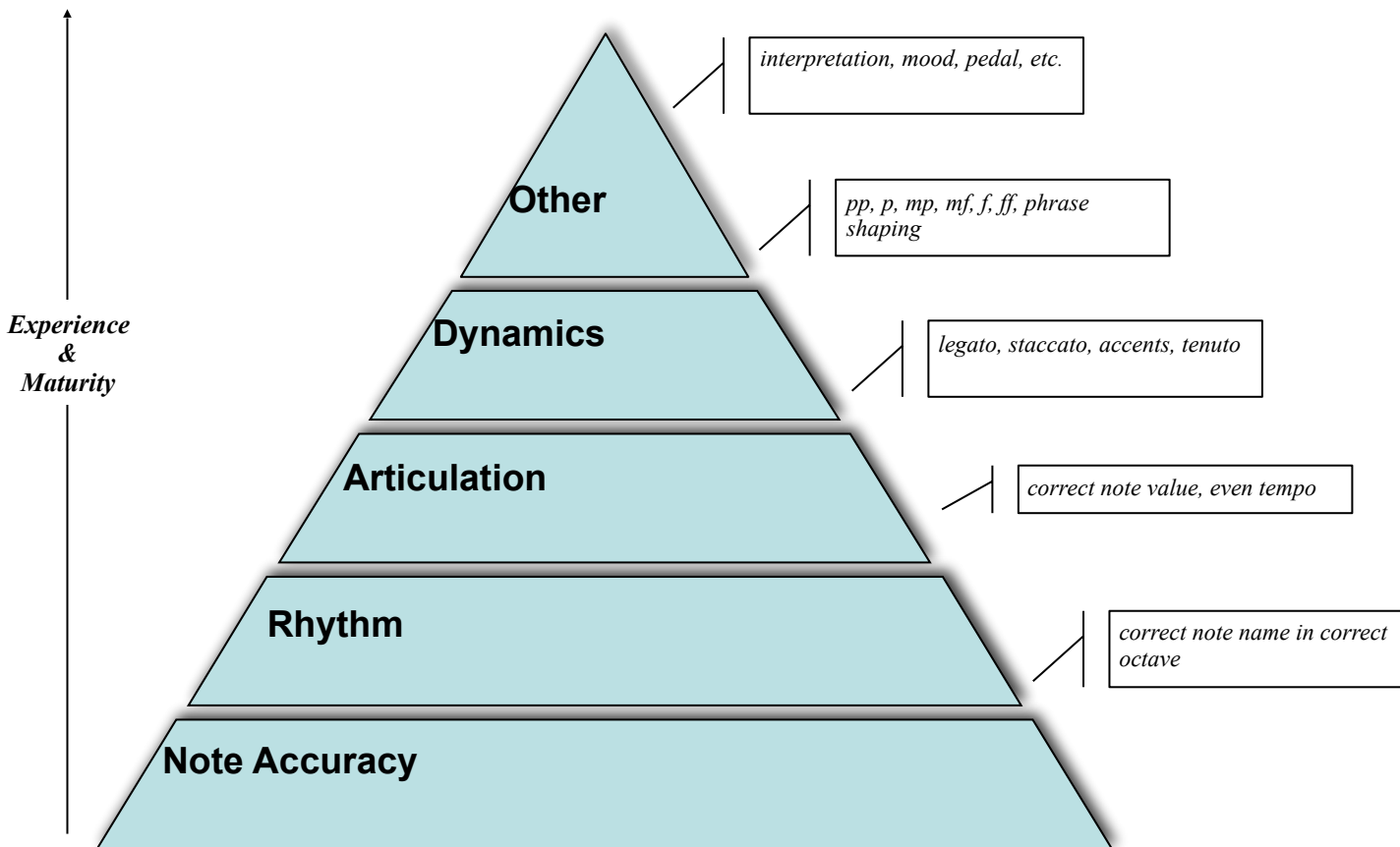


Pyramid of Piano Preparation



This diagram serves as a tool to illustrate that even at beginning levels, musical performance is complex and requires frequent practice and preparation to achieve competence. Beginning students tend to learn new pieces sequentially, focusing initially on note accuracy followed by rhythm. Although all the skills encompassed by the pyramid are introduced in a basic form during the student's first year at the piano, beginners often feel their preparation and performance is complete once they've progressed through the first two levels of the pyramid. As students gain more experience and maturity, they begin to master multiple levels simultaneously, such as correctly executing Note and Rhythm Accuracy together. All students, regardless of experience and maturity can use this tool to consider the completeness of their preparation and performance.