



S E M I N A R S

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Conquer Stage Fright: Perform with Confidence!

1. Understand the physiology and psychology of stage fright
2. Complete 50 relaxation sessions
3. Establish an optimal performance mindset
4. Use the Five Stages of Peak Performance
5. Positive performance practice

1. Understanding stage fright

Stage fright is caused by the activation of your body's stress response (mid brain). You have been triggered by the presence of a real or imagined danger. "Super juice" is now flooding your mind and body. Fight, flight or freeze takes over. The more it upsets you, the more intense it gets until you determine that you are safe.

Physical Symptoms

Muscle tension
Increased heart rate
Shallow, rapid breathing
Cold, clammy hands
Dry mouth
Stomach distress

Emotional Symptoms

Distorted thinking
Feeling overwhelmed
Distracted or hyper-focused
Emotionally upset
Desire to run away
Loss of confidence

Interventions for stage fright

1. Relaxation exercises
2. The ten-count breathing exercise
3. Unlock the breath
4. "My body's activated, so what!"
5. Mental rehearsal/visualization
6. Create an optimal performance mindset: Bold, Confident, Free!
7. Positive self talk: "If it's not life threatening, it's trivial!"
8. Use the Five Stages of Peak Performance
9. Positive performance practice



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The Five Stages of Peak Performance©

Stage I. The foundation

What is your goal or intention?

Why are you pursuing this goal? What is your motivation?

How are you committed to being as you pursue this goal?

Write down three words that describe how you are committed to being as you perform.

Trigger words: _____

Stage II. Ready!

Skill acquisition and mastery – Practice, Practice, Practice!

Constant self-awareness: evaluate, critique, experiment, observe, adjust.

Mental preparation/visualization.

How are you being as you pursue your goal?

What is incomplete? What is your plan to complete it?

When you plan your work and work your plan, your plan works!

Important: Declaring your preparation complete allows you to perform with freedom. Declare complete what is incomplete!

Stage III. Set!

Get yourself mentally and physically set to perform.

Physical preparation includes your costume, props, transportation, food, grooming, etc.

Being mentally set: attention control and positive self-talk.

Pre-performance routines (warm-up routines) to access motor programs. No Rituals!!

Trigger words to access the desired mental states for the performance.

How are you being? Confident, Expressive, Bold!

Stage IV. Go!

The performance.

Step into the sandbox, stay in the sandbox! Go Play!

Limited self-awareness, a present focus of awareness, ease, flow, in the zone.

No thoughts of victory, no thoughts of defeat!

Stage V. The post performance debriefing

Each performance is a practice in performing.

What worked?

What didn't work?

What will you do next time?

No post performance bashing!



The Performance Attitude Questionnaire (Short form)

Complete the following sentences. Just put down whatever comes to mind.

- ___ Performing is...
- ___ I know I am ready to perform when...
- ___ The audience...
- ___ Criticism is...
- ___ What I like most about performing is...
- ___ Mistakes are...
- ___ I'd have more confidence if...
- ___ I get stressed out when...

The Performance Profile Questionnaire (Short Form)

The **Performance Profile Questionnaire** explores different aspects of your experience as a performer. Read each question and reflect on your personal experience.

Answer each sentence as True, False or Sometimes.

1. _____ I usually feel anxious before I perform.
2. _____ I am easily distracted when I perform.
3. _____ I usually feel confident about my performance preparation.
4. _____ I critique my performance while I am playing.
5. _____ I am afraid of mistakes.
6. _____ I often think about past "bad" or embarrassing performances.
7. _____ I am critical of myself.
8. _____ I have confidence in my ability to perform well.
9. _____ I often wonder what others think of my playing.
10. _____ I enjoy performing.



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Resources

Music 259 BYU School of Music, Fall 2016: The Psychology of Music Performance

Relax the Body Focus the Mind: Skidmore

The Inner Game of Music: Barry Green

Performance Anxiety: Maisel

Applied Sports Psychology: Personal Growth to Peak Performance: Williams

You Tube: Meditation/Relaxation

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