

Singing whilst playing the keyboard

There are a couple of good tips for those who would like to be able to sing whilst playing the keyboard.

1. Practice the piece on the keyboard until it comes naturally—this way the conflict between what the brain is telling the voice to do and what it's telling your hands to do won't be as great.
2. Keep it simple. You can never hope to play as much whilst singing as you would be able to if you were concentrating entirely on playing the keyboard. Make sure that the things that need to be there (particularly the chords) are there and anything else is a bonus

The last tip goes for everything we've covered—practice makes perfect (well nearly perfect anyway). If you don't practice you probably won't improve. Having said this there is also good and bad practice.

Bad practice is generally what happens when we just rush through everything at 100mph! Just playing things through with no regard to mistakes or failings will not make you better.

Good practice is usually slow at first—make sure you're getting things right and then slowly speed it up. Try to cut out as many mistakes as possible at this slow stage otherwise you may unwittingly end up practicing the wrong thing rather than the right thing—this is extremely time consuming and takes a long time to get rid of. Good practice is concentrated—you should concentrate hard on what you're trying to achieve and get it done. Good practice is also regular practice—repetition reinforces good habits and good techniques so don't let it go for too long between practices.

Remember that 10 minutes of good practice each day is better than 2 hours of bad practice once a week—it will go a lot further towards improving your playing.

Good luck and I hope that you enjoy improving as you go!