



# Jodi Damon

## Memorizing Your Songs - Yes You Can!

This workshop is for anyone with the desire to memorize music, but especially for those who have ever uttered the phrase 'I just can't do it'. Fortunately, memorizing is not just for an elite group of people born with the right skills— anyone can train and develop their memorization skills. Jodi will describe many proven techniques that are helpful when memorizing music. She'll also discuss the benefits of memorizing music, and give you the pep talk you need to finally do it!

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# Memorizing your Songs-Yes You Can!

Presented by [Jodi Damon](#)

“Whether you think you can or you think you can’t, you’re right.”

-Henry Ford

The power of the word ‘Yet’

“I can’t memorize music YET”

Memorization is a skill that can be developed and improved.

Why would you want to?

Pocket songs-for requests and campfires

Performance benefits- Gives you the opportunity to connect to a song more deeply

Not be limited to whether you have a songbook with you to play

To prove that you can do hard things!

## Picking the right song

Let’s set ourselves up by choosing a good song to memorize. They are not all created equal and some will be much easier to commit to memory than others.

The easiest songs to memorize will be ones that tell a story and/or ones with which you are already very familiar. Also choosing a song with a simple or repetitive chord progression will assist in the task. The hardest ones are songs that repeat a lot but with slight changes or ones that lists things.

**Commit to it and decide you are going to do it.**

Start playing the song using the song sheet with this in mind. You will pay attention differently now (similar to when a teacher tells you there will be a test on information in a lecture.)

## Tips and Tricks:

Sing/play the song with the song sheet but work on playing sections without looking.

Use chunking: Learn the song in separate sections, then group them together at the end. Break it down to one section/verse at a time and don't overdo it. (example phone numbers)

Write out the lyrics- Try using different colors for different sections.

Practice interleaving. Interleaving is the idea of mixing or alternating skills or concepts that you want to learn. For example, spend some time memorizing a verse to the song you are working on. Then play some other songs (either that you already have memorized or using a song chart) and then revisit the verse you are working on.

Use spaced repetition. Review the information, then increase the time between reviews each time to enhance long term knowledge retention.

Sleep on it. Studies show that your brain processes and stores information while you sleep. Try to review the song just before you go to sleep and see if it helps embed the information in your memory.

Use visualization: Imagine/create images, diagrams, or animations to communicate the lyrics (ex Ukulele Anthem, Down on the Corner) Be as vivid as possible.

Connect it- Link the words to a personal experience. (example- how I memorized the order of the verses for Untitled No 4)

Memory Palaces. This technique involves attaching memory triggers to familiar locations. Try learning the words the first verse while standing in the kitchen, and the words to the next verse in the living room etc

Speak the words before singing it

Record yourself playing the song and try to sing along to it from memory

Isolate chords and work on playing them without singing. Look for patterns in the chord progression. Pay attention to what your hands are doing.

Find landmarks where words match up with chord changes.

REPETITION-this will eventually engage muscle memory. Don't need instrument, can sing the song in the shower, car, in your head before bed etc)

Take your time and practice correctly. If there is a part that you always forget/mess up on, isolate that part and play it repeatedly without mistakes. You do not want muscle memory to kick in if you continue to play/sing it incorrectly.

Keep it fun! Take breaks. Be patient. And rest assured, this will get easier and faster as you hone your memorization skills.

If you repeat this enough, muscle memory WILL kick in and you'll experience freedom to express and connect within the song!