



Inspiring Artistry Repertoire Project

A Piano Magazine subscriber-exclusive digital resource

Aline Boyd presents:

“Waltz” from *Children’s Notebook*, Op. 69 by Dimitri Shostakovich

Process and Practice

Fully present: tips for maintaining focus and engagement over time

- Isolate, play, and repeat small chunks.
- Practice hands separately.
- Sing and play.

Break it up: useful practice segments; how to connect them and plug them back into the whole

- Play four measures at a time.
- Make sure the fingering helps you achieve your musical goals.
- Start memorizing small sections.

Layers and outlines: tips for focusing on how the parts makeup the whole

- Identify the form of the piece.
- Explore the dynamics of the piece.

Achieving flow: ideas for finding and maintaining tempo, managing modifications artistically

- Sing and breathe.
- Experiment with different metric emphases.

Make it mine: tips for developing and refining a personal, internal sense of the piece

- Find favorite recordings of the piece.
- Find ways to bring out the narrative and character contrasts between the A and B sections.

Deep knowing: tips for securing memory

- Be able to start at both the A and B sections of the piece.
- When memorizing, identify and practice measures with similar patterns.

Final stages: tips for ensuring performance readiness, maintaining freshness and spontaneity, and reinforcing an expressive personal connection

- Practice performing: walk to the piano, think about the the waltz style before you begin, and play from beginning to end.
- Record your performance.
- Perform for family and friends.