

The Technique Behind Intermediate Repertoire: Laying the Groundwork

Technique is: a complete command of the instrument, and a
“means of expressing the composer’s intent.” (Rosina Lhevinne)

Three Physical Aspects of Technique:

1. Position of the Body
2. Use of the Hands and Fingers
3. Larger gestures or motions (that move the hands around the keyboard)

Elements of Technical Development:

1. Tone production
2. Keyboard Patterns
3. Touches

Basic Keyboard Patterns that make up the piano literature: (to be practiced in all keys)

1. Scales
2. Chords
3. Arpeggios
4. Double Notes
5. Trills and Ornaments
6. Octaves.

Patterns to Develop with Progressive Difficulty:

Five-Finger Patterns: (pre-scales) and exercise for all five fingers equally.

Parallel and contrary in **all major and minor keys**;
then Hanon exercises (transposed, and in different touches and rhythms.)

Chords: (To be played in solid, broken, and staccato touches)

Tonic major and minor **triads**; then all **triads and inversions**.

Cadences: I V⁷ I; I IV I V⁷ I; I IV I V V⁷ I; (all major and minor keys)
I IV I V V⁷ I (all inversions)

Four-Note Chords: (doubling the root—one-octave arpeggios)

All major and minor keys; then in **all inversions**

Scales: All **major, harmonic, and melodic minor** in parallel and contrary motion.
(quarter, eighth, triplet, and sixteenth note rhythms—1-4 octaves)

Arpeggios: (in one hand—2-3-and 4 octaves, different rhythms.)

Touches: (All patterns should be played with different touches)

Legato, Staccato, Non-legato, Slur groupings

Other Techniques to develop at the Intermediate level:

Repeated chords (Throw as a group with fingers remaining on the keys.)

Repeated notes (changing fingers.)

Voicing (divided hand—upper and lower hands).

Shifting weight and constant weight.

“Technic is only a means to an end, but without the means, we will not reach the end.”

Josef Lhevinne