



Inspiring Artistry Repertoire Project

A Piano Magazine subscriber-exclusive digital resource

Lynn Worcester Jones presents:

***Chanson bretonne, Op. 76, No. 5* by Cécile Chaminade**

Process and Practice

Fully present: tips for maintaining focus and engagement over time

- Internalize your performance tempo of choice and choose three performance tempi that you can use (depending on the instrument/performance hall)
- Avoid always starting at the beginning of the piece
- Count and/or sing during practice to feel the lively rhythm and character of the piece

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

- Listen for phrase endings and anticipate the beginning of the next phrase in order to have convincing transitions
- Split up measures 12-14 into small chunks to play seamlessly at tempo in the future
- Break the B section into five distinct phases and practice them out of order to learn the muscle memory

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

- Maintain focus through the second statement of the B section
- Zoom out and absorb the big picture and form of the piece; create a mental musical map of the repeated sections to simplify memorization and performance
- When ready for performance, think of long, compounded phrases—not 4-8 measures at a time, but 16+ measures at a time—to hold the rhythmic units within the phrases together
- Play the left hand and sing the right hand melody from beginning to end

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

- Practice saying one to two key phrases to yourself right before you begin performing (e.g., “floating wrist” or “weightless upper arm”)
- Choose the overall tempo based on the tempo that feels right in the first phrase of the B section

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

- Show confidence in your performance—this is an underperformed piece, which immediately gives you license to make the interpretation your own
- Further ingrain the storyline and any other imagery that you deciphered with the student at the beginning stages of discovery

- Search for pieces of visual art from a similar time period to match the mood of the piece and bring even more imagery to the performance

Deep knowing: tips for securing memory

- Think of the piece lyrically versus technically, always singing the melody aloud during practice and mentally during performance
- Practice by phrase backward from end to beginning; also practice jumping around from one phrase to the next purposefully to secure memory
- Practice on an electric keyboard with the sound off to secure finger memory
- Incorporate slow practice for this fast piece, especially toward the final polishing stage
- Practice performing each section cold, by memory

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

- Feel grounded in yourself prior to performance and remember to play lightly while still projecting
- Take a few dance steps before walking on stage to get a light, bouncy feeling in your body
- Remember the story that goes along with this piece
- Keep the big picture in mind, rather than individual notes