



# Inspiring Artistry Repertoire Project

*A Piano Magazine subscriber-exclusive digital resource*

## **Charlotte Tang presents: Sonata in D Minor, K. 213 by Domenico Scarlatti**

### **Process and Practice**

**Fully present:** tips for maintaining focus and engagement over time

- Start by knowing the harmonizing and how they evolve from one to the other
- Recognize the special harmonies, and try the “expected” progressions instead
- Develop a story or outline of emotions to fit the harmonic progression

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

- Opening: measures 1-5, 27-30
- Arpeggios: measures 6-10, 30-40
- Duet: measures 11-19, 41-43
- Dialogue: measures 20-26, 40-60

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

- Observe the changes in texture to understand the “story” or development of the piece
  - The piece begins very simply with four ascending arpeggiated notes but is later expanded into yearning diminished arpeggios with a more elaborate left hand
- Locate the “duets,” or moments of thicker textures, increased intensity, and active dialogue

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

- Start with the duet or arpeggio sections (most rhythmically dense) to find your ideal tempo
- Try humming or singing while you play
- Try speaking a four-syllable word with the sixteenth notes (e.g. huckleberry or pomegranate)
- Count through the longer notes by subdividing sixteenths
- Play the first two bars of each phrase with the metronome, to ensure the tempo remains the same between phrases/sections

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

- Listen for the harmonic “colors” as light and/or shade in the piece; observe the evolution of these shades as the piece moves from the home key of D minor and explores major harmonies
- Notice the shift back to minor, after the B section’s “rays of sunshine”

- Notice how the ending intensifies the opening A material by its final descending scale in octaves

**Deep knowing:** tips for securing memory

- Compare exact reprises and also notice the “turning points” between sections
- Think in terms of the direction of the music—is it opening, expanding, intensifying, gathering, elaborating, closing, shrinking, etc?
- Grouping small phrases into larger musical chunks/phrases will make the task of memorizing seem less daunting

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

- Play with opposites
- Keep a steady tempo and play everything expressively in the opposite dynamic and articulation
- Play the piece in various characters, such as tragic, tranquil, sorrowful, serious, etc., as this may spark new ideas and colors
- Improvise by adding ornaments, changing the patterns, altering the figurations, etc. to create a sense of spontaneity and to grasp the harmonies and structure of the work