



Inspiring Artistry Repertoire Project

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Cole Burger Presents:

Little Melody in E-flat by Florence Price

Process and Practice

Fully present: tips for maintaining focus and engagement over time

- Practice with a metronome slightly under tempo. This can help feel what it would sound like to “play it straight.” It might also identify “emergency rubato,” which can lead to learning those spots more thoroughly.
- Incorporate more or less rubato, or vary where you use it. Use the music to guide this.

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

- Before and after difficult spots such as m. 4, 13, and 23
- Much of the piece divides nicely into 2, 4, and 8-bar musical units. Practice across those phrases, such as mm. 3-6.

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

- Create a story using the music.
- Sing mm. 6-8 and 22-25 in one breath.

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

- Play with the metronome on eighth, quarter, half, and whole notes.
- Play one hand while the student plays the other.
- Speak the rhythm of the RH.

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

- Play short sections 2-3 times, varying the volume or timing each time.
- Play the melody:
 - As if it were sung (choose different vocal types for more variety, such as young, old, longing, or urgent)
 - As if it were played by a cello
 - As if it were played by a French horn

Deep knowing: tips for securing memory

- Start in the middle of each of the four sections.
- Practice the differences between each section (for example, practice m. 1, then m. 9).
- Focus on the LH by analyzing the harmonies and playing it while speaking the RH.

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

- Play both hands as the teacher plays the RH one octave higher.
- Transpose part of it to C major and talk about how it feels different.
- Play at different times of day or with different lighting.
- Start at the end and work backwards.