



Inspiring Artistry Repertoire Project

A Piano Magazine subscriber-exclusive digital resource

Amber Yiu Hsuan Liao presents:

***“Wichtige Begebenheit”* from *Kinderszenen*, Op. 15, No. 6 by Robert Schumann**

Preparation and Presentation

Context: pieces that are helpful to have experienced or played before approaching this one

- *Ecossaise* in G Major by L.v. Beethoven
- “Norse Song” from *Album for the Young*, Op. 68, No. 41 by R. Schumann
- “Buds and Blossoms,” Op. 107, No. 5 by Gurlitt
- Any piece or exercise with octaves in the left hand

Get Ready: creative activities to explore before the first encounter with the score to prepare a student for deeper engagement and more immediate success

- Select an important event in the student’s life
- Find music examples that fit as the soundtrack for said event
- Write down a few words describing the mood of the music

Initial Focus: features to pay attention to first; priority steps in reading and absorbing the music

- This piece is completely chordal, so it is a great exercise for reading chords
 - Go over the visual shape of all inversions of triads so the students reads the “chunked” chord instead of individual notes
 - Practice playing all triads in inversions to develop the muscle memory of the hand shape for all keys
 - Analyze the harmony so that the student understands and observes the relationship between chords, such as cadences and the use of secondary dominants

Coordination Essentials: physical skills and drills for common technical challenges in the piece

- Left hand octave practice: first drop on individual, repeated notes and then on each note in a full scale
 - Focus on relaxing the hand between octaves and feeling the weight of the full arm
- Right hand voicing: practice bringing out and listening for the top note of the triads

Expressivity: ideas to connect with the expressive and musical nature of the piece

- Label the starts and ends of phrases
- Sing each phrase while playing the harmony
- Analyze the shape and direction of each phrase

Look Forward: approaches to set up for success with refinements that will need attention a few weeks down the road

- Focus on one element in each practice session:
 - Technical challenges of octaves and chords
 - Phrasing
 - Tone and dynamics
 - Expression