



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**

Process and Practice

Fully present: tips for maintaining focus and engagement over time

- Vary the way you practice this piece in terms of dynamics, tempo, and rhythm; for example, practice the piece slowly and softly or without rhythm while focusing on the harmonic colors

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

- Work on one phrase (four bars) at a time, until achieving balance and expression
- Connect the two phrases in the A section
- Connect the two phrases in the B section
- Connect the A and B sections
- Play the B section followed by the A section
- Perform as written (ABA)

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

- A section: understand the chords and their harmonic function
- B section: analyze how the theme/motive is developed and its thematic connection with the A section

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

- A section: be disciplined about the constant dotted rhythm and keep a steady pulse like a march
- B section: play more lyrically with some use of rubato

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

- Determine the different character of each section
- Make up a storyline to connect the two sections

Deep knowing: tips for securing memory

- Know the harmony and harmonic progressions (point of modulation, use of secondary dominants, etc.)
- Memorize the hands separately
- Mark the differences between similar phrases
- Play one hand while singing the other, with and without the score

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

- Practice performing for family and friends and at informal concerts
- Practice away from the piano without muscle memory
- Read the score away from the piano to find “new” details
- If possible, take a few days off from the piece and return with fresh ears