



# The Frances Clark Center

## *Inspiring Artistry Repertoire Project*

A PianoInspires.com subscriber-exclusive digital resource

**Andrea McAlister presents: Clowns, op. 39, no. 20 by Dmitri Kabalevsky**

### Process and Practice

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

- Draw different faces in the score to indicate contrasting moods, which can vary from performance to performance.
- Embody chosen characters with facial expressions, while playing.

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

- Practice the A Major/minor sections (mm. 1-4, 5-8, 18-21) together to discover and show how they are similar and different.
- Individual practice for:
  - mm. 9-12 in F Major/minor
  - mm. 13-17 transition
  - mm. 22-25 coda

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

- Identify where 5-note patterns occur and how they change throughout the piece. How are they different in the A M/m and the F M/m sections?
- Identify the key areas.
- Point out where the left hand pattern changes.

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

- Think of the LH as a metronome to keep the beat steady.
- Aim for a joking, clownish tempo; choose one that brings out the character and isn't too fast.

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

- Exaggerate the articulations and dynamics.
- Allow some time (stretch) in m. 17 before returning to the first theme.

**Deep knowing:** tips for securing memory

- Memorize the piece in its key areas.
- Note where the A section changes and leads to the Coda (m. 22).

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

- Draw multiple characters for each section and choose a different combination for successive performances.