



Inspiring Artistry Repertoire Project

A Piano Magazine subscriber-exclusive digital resource

Yangmingting Fang presents:

Elf kleine Klavierstücke für die Jugend (11 Little Piano Pieces for Young People),
Op. 15b, nos. 1-5 by Hugo Distler

Process and Practice

Fully present: tips for maintaining focus and engagement over time

- Study the score, specifically discovering how Distler reflects the Neo-Baroque style in this piece
- Identify the challenging parts, and have the student come up with practice strategies and drills
 - Example: play “Twinkle, Twinkle” with ornamentation (CDC-CDC-GAG-GAG-ABA-ABA-GAG-GAG, etc.) to practice trills

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

- Focus on small sections, note the challenges within each small section, and implement specific practice strategies
- Practice the left hand alone while singing/humming the right-hand melody; feel how the melodic line fits into the harmonies, and react to the harmonic changes
- For moments that require complex rhythmic coordination, tap the left-hand rhythm on the right arm while playing the right hand

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

- Discover the phrase structure of each section, then consider the big picture by comparing phrases—what repetitions, similarities, and/or differences do you notice in each section?
- In moments with multi-voice textures, isolate each voice and practice in two-voice combos (pay special attention to counter melodies in the right-hand lower voice)

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

- Identify the most technically demanding part of the piece; find a tempo at which the student can play this difficult section confidently and musically, and use this as the starting tempo for the whole piece
- Refer to the main theme and sing it out before playing a new section to maintain overall coherence even within tempo and dynamic changes
- When working on sections with frequent tempo changes, dance/conduct with a full arm while listening and humming to internalize a natural and smooth sense of pulse

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

- Revisit the project (story, drawing, dance, etc.) that the student created earlier in the learning process—what changes or additions might a student make now?

Deep knowing: tips for securing memory

- Play the left hand alone while humming the right-hand melody, listening for how the accompaniment changes/progresses to support the melody
- Create a map with sections and phrases marked out, then practice with the map (instead of the score); the student may add descriptive markings and/or colors to assist

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

- Encourage the student to record their practice sessions on a regular basis, watch the recordings, and provide a brief self-assessment
- Practice on different pianos and try different spaces; adapt the touch and sound accordingly
- Perform for friends and family prior to the official performance day
- Solicit feedback from the audience on the moods and emotions they experienced