



Inspiring Artistry Repertoire Project

A Piano Inspires digital resource

Helena Hyesoo Kim presents:
“Mechanical Accordion” by Sofia Gubaidulina

Preparation and Presentation

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

- Rock Climbing by Sarah Konecsni
- Arctic Voices by Susan Griesdale
- Dragonfly Scherzo by Anne Crosby Gaudet

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

- Mastering the recurring rhythmic pattern, which is featured in the video, before looking at the other elements of the score
- Isolate and prepare tone clusters
- Listen to the effect of pedaling by playing chords first and adding the pedal after.

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

- Count the compound rhythms of the music incorporating the rhythms they learned through exercises
- Add pedal to isolated tone clusters
- Practice pedaling while tapping rhythm of tone clusters

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

- Two-note slur exercises (drop and roll exercises using wrists)
- Tapping exercises for the tone cluster section can help coordinate both hands for this piece's complicated rhythmic patterns
- Tap the rhythm with the pedal markings so students can coordinate both hands and the right foot together

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

- For students who may not be acquainted with the accordion, offer the option of enriching their knowledge through video content. They can choose to explore a captivating performance video showcasing the mastery of this unique instrument or opt for an instructional video that provides valuable insights into the art of accordion playing. Additionally, to infuse an element of playfulness into our activities, encourage students to engage in thoughtful conversations about their preferred musical instruments during their formative years, thus fostering an atmosphere of shared experiences and joyful reminiscence.

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

- It is important that students approach this piece step by step. It is not an easy piece to read for intermediate students, but if they understand how the patterns work, it can be a fun piece to play!
- Spend as much time as needed on the rhythmic elements of the piece first
- Applying the right pedal amount to create a swelling effect can take a few weeks of practice—be patient!