



Inspiring Artistry Repertoire Project

A Piano Inspires digital resource

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

Process and Practice

Fully present: tips for maintaining focus and engagement over time

- Be clear on weekly practice objectives
- Take all the steps necessary to digest each concept—no need to learn everything at once!

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

- Focus on counting first, especially with changing time signatures
- Isolate the moments in the piece with fluctuating time signatures

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

- Isolate the basic rhythmic motive
- Discuss the similarities and differences between the basic rhythmic motive and each tone cluster section

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

- Consider the pedaling when selecting the tempo—never play faster than you can listen for clear pedal changes
- Be sure to listen for the “swelling” effect of the sustain pedal

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

- Have the student imagine a story or select a memory from their own childhood to build a more personal connection with the music
- Internalize all rhythmic patterns within the piece (consider creative ways to do this!)

Deep knowing: tips for securing memory

- Approach this process slowly, noting all the details and patterns
- Visualize the cluster chords and patterns away from the keyboard

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

- Have student practice performing in front of parents and peers, rating their comfort level with memory and performance

- Practice performing different sections of the music (starting in different places) to solidify the rhythmic differences in each section