



Inspiring Artistry Repertoire Project

A Clavier Companion subscriber-exclusive digital resource

[Diana Dumlavwalla presents:](#)

[Prelude in C minor, Op. 8, no. 1 by Henryk Pachulski](#)

Process and Practice

Fully Present: Tips for maintaining focus and engagement over time

- Sing the melody while playing only the LH.
- Listen to how the LH can help the dynamic contour of the dotted eighth notes in the RH that are supposed to crescendo (e.g. mm. 1, 5, 15, etc.)

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

- Practice using the pedal with just the LH, just the RH and then HT. This way, one can hear what to avoid blurring in the LH chords and the RH melody.
- Pay special attention to the final chords which are *piu lento*. They form a tragic end to this solemn piece. They should be played with great care and attention to sound quality and voicing.

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

- Pay attention to the form of the piece (ABA). Take note of how the A sections are similar and when they are slightly different.
- Identify the cadence at the end of each phrase; then listen to how each phrase relates to the next.

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

- Experiment with playing a relatively quick tempo as well as a very slow tempo. Note how the fast tempo does not allow the expressivity to blossom and the very slow tempo makes the piece feel like it is dragging.

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

- Experiment with different dynamic plans.
- Although some slurs and phrasing are indicated in the score, mark the long phrases with a colored pencil. This will provide some visual indication of how long the line needs to last.
- Bring out some of the secondary melodies in the LH.

Deep knowing: Tips for securing memory

- Conduct an elementary harmonic analysis of the piece.
- Sing the melody with solfege.
- Pay attention to the voice leading in the LH chords.

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

- If possible, practice playing this piece on different pianos. This will help to develop artistic responsiveness to the differences in keyboard action.