



Inspiring Artistry Repertoire Project

A Clavier Companion subscriber-exclusive digital resource

Jason Sifford presents:

Minuet in G minor, by Gottfried Heinrich Stolzel

Process and Practice

Fully Present: tips for maintaining focus and engagement over time

- Revisit how the dance-like nature of the piece affects the musical and technical choices.
- Experiment with different articulations, dynamics, and tempi – how does the spirit of the piece change as you try different things?

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

- Practice the technical aspect of the chords with a relaxed but firm hand.
- Analyze the form and practice by section. Challenge the student to play the sections out of order.

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

- Analyze the underlying counterpoint by focusing on the 1st beats of each measure. What patterns can you find?
- Assign a film/TV character (or a meme!) to each section of the form. How would the piece sound differently if inspired by different characters?

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

- Practice with a pause after the 1st beat, then playing from beat 2 to beat 1 of the following measure to promote flow across the barlines.
- Employ “antiphonal” practice – practice in call-and-response style with student and teacher alternating 1-, 2-, or 4-bar sections.

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

- As the student settles on details, write them in the score. (And make sure you find an urtext score or erase editorial markings.)
- Have the student create a story, artwork, or choreography to accompany the piece.

Deep knowing: tips for securing memory

- Compare the form of this minuet with others. How is it similar? Different?
- Have the student go through the piece, playing a measure, then listening (in their mind) to the next measure, then continue alternating. Try this in 2- and 4-bar sections as well.

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

- Reconnect with the idea of the dance, visualizing the upward motion of the arms as they dance across the keys.
- Stay connected to the contour of the melody and the use of the half steps within the minor scale for expressive purposes.
- Develop a single thought that you use to begin each performance, setting the student up for success.