A Clavier Companion subscriber-exclusive digital resource

Hannah Creviston presents:
Mazurka, Op 6 No. 3 by Clara Schumann

Process and Practice

Fully Present: tips for maintaining focus and engagement over time
- Imagine being all dressed up and attending a stately ball. How would you feel?
- Create a story about the different characters you have identified in the piece.

Break it Up: useful practice segments; how to connect them and plug them back into the whole
- Use phrase shaping, dynamic contrasts and timbre changes even at a very slow tempo.
- Practice LH and pedal separately.
- Practice RH separately focusing on voicing and smoothness of phrasing.
- When putting hands together, be aware of how the LH can support the phrasing and colors of the RH.

Layers and outlines: tips for focusing on how the parts makeup the whole
- Identify the form of the piece and the repeated patterns which occur in each section.
- How are the A and B sections similar? How are they different?
- How are the A and A' sections similar? How are they different?

Achieving flow: ideas for finding and maintaining tempo, managing modifications artistically
- Keep the LH as steady and consistent as possible.
- Choose a tempo which allows for clarity in and matches the character of all the sections.

Make it mine: tips for developing and refining a personal, internal sense of the piece
- Experiment with different applications of rubato, particularly in the measures with more florid or ornamented right hand passages.
- Exaggerate the color/timbre changes.

Deep knowing: tips for securing memory
- Play LH while singing RH melody.
- Know and understand the harmonic progression of each section, especially cadences.
- Start from different places.

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

- In all the sections which are marked "rubato" or which have melismatic passages, try to make it slightly different each time.
- Use a wide dynamic and color range.
- Have fun!