

Emotional associations in the art of piano playing

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The pianist's technique can be considered one of the manifestations of general human expressiveness – externalizing of feelings and emotions through the sphere of expressive movements. This is a process of adequate incarnation during performance of the experienced by the Artist feelings and moods, encoded in a musical composition. It is difficult to separate in the structure of the pianist's movements the «purely performing» movements (those directly responsible for the sound reproduction) from the expressive elements constituting the outer plastique of the pianist. Accordingly, formation of this artistic «emotionally determined» technique must also lay through emotion. The associative method involving emotional memory at all levels is quite efficient when working on the performing technique, especially with subtle and vivid music of impressionists. For example, when working on Debussy's pieces (who is often called «the poet of water»), important are metaphors and associative representations associated with the water element: they don't only enrich the musical emotion, but can be also used as an effective means of developing of good practices and motor experiences needed for an adequate transmission of images in real musical sound. Useful are comparisons with sensations during the swimming: slamming, angularity, muscle stiffness are contraindicated, the body must adapt to the aquatic environment, to merge with it, like a fish. These associative kinesthetic sensations help students to find the right piano sensations, the freedom of the whole performing apparatus - from the body to the fingertips; softness, flexibility, coordination, unity and interrelatedness of all movements. Some examples will be analyzed by demonstrating the effectiveness of bodily kinesthetic associations for the emotional experience of music. Theoretical study of the problem is result of synthesis of empirical data obtained from the author's long-term experience of teaching piano in university. This material is original and hasn't been published before.