



HISTORY, STRUCTURE AND PERFORMANCE TECHNIQUES OF THE PIANO

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Abstract

This article discusses how learning to play the piano and developing performance skills involves not only performing technical exercises, but also developing musical expression, thinking, and imagination, and systematically implementing the recommendations below will help you achieve good results over time.

Keywords: Piano, performance, skill, technique, mastery, style.

Introduction

The piano is an instrument with a rich and deep range of musical expression. It is widely used not only in classical, but also in modern and national music. Historically, the piano has enriched the musical world with its structure and technique, creating great opportunities for performers. Piano performance is a perfect combination of art, technique, and musical thinking.

The piano is a type of instrument with unique characteristics, a rich history, and a wide range of possibilities for various genres. It has become an integral part of classical music in particular and is a leading instrument in presenting works that are studied and performed around the world. More detailed information about the piano can be found in the following sections:

1. History and Origins: The fortepiano was invented in Italy in the early 1700s, most likely by Bartolomeo Cristofori. Earlier instruments—the clavecin and clavichord—had limited dynamics, meaning they could only play at a single



pitch. Cristofori created the fortepiano by modifying the external mechanism to allow the player to control the volume and brightness of the sound by pressing the keys. The name fortepiano comes from the words "forte" (strong) and "piano" (soft), and this instrument was originally distinguished by its ability to combine high and low pitch.

2. Structure: A piano is an instrument controlled by keys (or buttons), and its structure is usually as follows:

- Keyboard: Usually consists of 88 keys, which are made up of white and black keys. Under each key is a mallet (control stroke) and vibrating strings.
- Strings: The strings inside a piano are made of iron or steel and are often carefully tuned.
- Pedals: The pedals of a piano allow you to change the duration or dynamics of the sound. The three most common pedals are:
 - Sustar (damper) pedal, to interrupt the sound;
 - Una corda pedal, to soften the sound;
 - Sostenuto pedal, to sustain only certain notes for longer.

3. Technique and performance: The piano playing technique is very complex, and in this type of instrument, the fine coordination and speed of the performer's fingers, the ability to control dynamics, as well as ensuring the expressiveness of the music are very important. When playing the piano, the fingers must be precise and the movements must be correct, because each finger has its own function and strength. The performer has the opportunity to control the strength, volume and color of the sound, depending on the piano keys. In addition, the piano uses special dynamics (soft and strong sounds) and various techniques such as legato (long and connected sounds) and staccato (fast and short sounds).

4. Piano and musical genres: The piano is widely used not only in classical music, but also in jazz, pop, rock and other modern genres. The most famous works of classical music - works written by composers such as Ludwig van Beethoven, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Frédéric Chopin, Johann Sebastian Bach - are performed on the piano. With its full tones, complex technique and wide dynamic capabilities, the piano serves as a very comprehensive means of expression for composers and performers. The piano has not only become an integral part of European classical music, but is also an important tool for expressing the national



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music of other nations. For example, Uzbek national music, Arabic music, Indian classical music and various other folk music can be performed on the piano, which helps to express the unique characteristics of each nation. Today, piano technique is more advanced. New techniques, more expressive dynamics, and different styles are being used in performance. The piano is used by modern composers to create works that incorporate new techniques and performance forms. In addition, electronic pianos and digital technologies are also creating new possibilities for piano performance. Learning to play the piano requires the development of not only technique, but also musical thinking and expression. This type of instrument requires reading, correct piano position, increased finger strength, and a good sense of rhythm and melody. Exercises and practical performance are very important in teaching the piano, and by developing these skills, the performer learns not only musical technique, but also musical emotion. Piano performance occupies a unique place in the art of music, and its worldwide popularity undoubtedly lies in the limitlessness of the performance technique and expressive possibilities of this type of instrument. The piano is of great importance not only in the performance of classical and modern musical works, but also in the depiction of various national and folk music. This type of instrument is appreciated by the peoples of the whole world, reflecting their unique culture, history and musical traditions.

The piano and the national music of the peoples of the world: Although originally created in Italy, the piano has become a beloved instrument worldwide with its unchanging technique and expressive possibilities. The peoples of the world have had the opportunity to perform their national music on the piano, which has ensured the piano's integration into global musical traditions.



Every nation strives to express its national music through the piano. For example, the gentle and elegant motifs of European classical music, the rhythmic patterns of African and Latin American music, the unique melodies of the music of the Eastern peoples, and the noisy and attractive tones of the Far East come alive through piano performance. Every nation expresses its historical heritage and cultural characteristics through the piano.

National music and piano: The piano, along with its solid technique, allows you to express national identity, historical and cultural layers of the people through music. For example, Uzbek piano players, along with performing works by world composers, also present their national melodies through the piano. When the rhythmic forms found in Uzbek national music, the melodies of maqom music, and the melodies of folk songs are played on the piano, this evokes deep meaning and reflection not only for the performer, but also for the listener. For example, the piano can express the unique timbres of Uzbek folk music and the ancient traditions of the people. Also, national music expressed on the piano revives the historical roots, customs, and personal expressions of the people. This indicates the wide possibilities and deep musical content of piano performance.

Piano performance and modern trends: Piano performance today has found its place not only in the expression of classical and folk music, but also in various genres, including modern music and experimental approaches. Works written by world composers are performed using the piano, and new musical styles and approaches are emerging. At the same time, elements of national music also continue to find expression on the piano. Nowadays, pianists, while preserving the specific features of folk music in their performances, are trying to use modern performance techniques and new styles. Such performance contributes to the renewal of national music and the creation of its new forms.

The piano instrument expresses not only the works of world composers, but also the national musical traditions of each nation. Through the works performed on the piano, nations introduce their identity, history and culture to the world. At the same time, piano performance provides not only technical skill, but also the opportunity to express deep feelings through music. The piano is not only an art, but also a significant means of expressing the cultural heritage and identity of the people.



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