



What's The Score?

The How and Why of Effective Score Preparation



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Only when a work has been experienced within, and when it reflects you and your creative participation, does it become interesting, effective and alive. You must learn to get through to yourself – Edwin Fischer

KEY CONCEPTS

- **Passion** about the piece
- **Vulnerability** - showing your feelings and enabling players to express theirs in playing
- **Connection** to *expressive* messages within the music
- No single “Truth” or “interpretation” - what is YOUR “**point of view**” on the piece? (can change over time and with more study)

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Score has objective & subjective elements
- Macro -> Micro -> Macro
- Important features unique to work - unifying features?, varying features?
- Individual parts / condensed scores are a valuable additional source of information
- Score memorisation?
- Physical gesture follows score study
- Listening to recordings?
- Marking the score - what needs to draw your attention and/or shared with players?
- Have & follow a plan for score study

FOUR STAGES

- Score **Orientation** - acquiring an overview of the work
- Score **Readings** - achieving an overall sound image, intuitive feeling of work
- Score **Analysis** - acquiring detailed knowledge of all components of work
- Score **Interpretation** - achieving a personal, internal, interpretive image of the music

POSSIBLE PROCESS FOR ANALYSIS (Stage 3 - after orientation & readings)

- Number measures in score (charting reference)
- Derive melodic source material & label
- Derive large scale harmonic motion - key centers, important modulatory progressions, unusual chordal structures etc.
- Map out formal structure based on the above - it is recommended that you create some kind of chart that shows the measures and sections “to scale.” Include phrasing, dynamics, important instrumentation, tempo/style markings etc.
- Look at how melody, rhythm, harmony, orchestration/texture, dynamics, articulations, expressive terms, etc. all relate to one another. How does the music progress through time? Momentum forward, repose, etc. Connect back to “big picture.”
- Interpret what you have discovered into a coherent, internal image of the work

FREELY AVAILABLE RESOURCES FROM THIS SESSION

- Resources demonstrated in this session (templates, chart examples, slide notes, etc.) are **FREELY DOWNLOADABLE** from the *Maryborough Music Conference* link on my home page at: www.robmewilliams.com

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- Please visit: <http://greatstart.yamahabackstage.com.au/education-outreach/>