

Building a Successful Technical Foundation
That Will Last a Lifetime
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Friday, January 23, 2006
Daynes Music

I. Technique

1. Should not be a mystery
2. Should not be focused on speed alone
3. Should not be boring or frustrating
4. Should not be an ordeal

II. Problems

1. Accuracy- note security
2. Fluency- fingering security
3. Clarity- no firm fingertips
4. Evenness- arm weight training

III. Excellence in technique

1. Physical tools to make desirable sounds
2. Be able to play at highest artistic level
3. Training for critical listening and skills to solve problems

IV. Goals for piano technique

1. Confidence
2. Accuracy
3. Fluency and flow
4. Attentive listening
5. Proper touch and nuances
6. Emotional connection
7. Imagination and conviction

V. Why do students struggle?

1. No clear terminology
2. Missing precise instructions
3. Relationship between movement and sound
4. Consistent guidance of how to use in pieces

VI. Resources to help teach Technique

1. Pathways to Artistry: Technique and Repertoire Books by Catherine Rollin
 - a. Wrist rotation
 - b. Two-note slur
 - c. Balanced torso
 - d. Forearm staccato
 - e. Push-off staccato
2. Hanon Exercises
 - a. Elastic wrist

VII. Technique tips

1. Play arpeggios starting at the top

2. Play triads and inversion- block then broken
3. Use cadences to practice voicing- top, middle, bottom
4. Use elbow to make space for descending passages
5. Use natural flow for tempo- don't speed up too quickly
6. Pedal at 45 degree angle
7. Practice until you can achieve perfection 3 times/row
8. Let student choose goals
9. Keep a practice journal