

TECHNIQUES FOR EXPRESSING EMOTIONS IN PIANO PERFORMANCE: THE ROLE OF FINGER PRESSURE, PEDAL AND DYNAMICS

Saidkarimova Kumush Saidaminovna

2nd year student of the Faculty of Art study,

Karshi State University

Annotation: This article presents scientifically based ideas about the main factors of conveying emotions in piano performance - finger pressure, dynamics, pedal, articulation and sound color. The subtle differences of "touch" in revealing the content of the pianist's work, the acoustic effect of the pedal and the dramatic power of the dynamic range are analyzed. Also, practical methods of forming emotions are considered using the example of works by famous composers.

Keywords: Piano, performance skills, finger technique, dynamics, pedal, emotional expression, sound color, touch (касание), articulation, interpretation.

Introduction

Piano performance is not only a technical skill, but also the art of expressing a person's inner world through sound. The pianist does not limit himself to playing the notes correctly - he conveys to the listener his inner feelings, the spirit of the work, the composer's intentions. For this, three main factors are crucial: finger pressure (touch), pedal use, dynamics. This article analyzes the role of these three factors in the emotional process from a scientific and practical perspective.

1. Finger pressure (Touch) - the first source of emotions

1.1. The concept of "Touch"

In the theory of piano pedagogy, "touch" is the quality of sound created by the pianist's method, speed, weight, elasticity and depth of pressing the keys. Each finger has its own type of pressure - they are the main expression of emotions.

1.2. Types of touch

Legato touch - for gentle, interconnected, lyrical images.

Staccato touch - for short, jumping, cheerful or sharp characters.

Portamento touch - for a smooth transition between notes, for a cautious mood.

Brilliant touch – for bright, sparkling sounds, virtuoso effects.

1.3. Expression of emotions through finger pressure

Soft, elastic pressure → romantic, thoughtful, calm states.

Hard, heavy pressure → drama, tension, conflict.

Uneven, “breathless” pressure → gives the effects of excitement, longing, romantic explosion.

In the works of Chopin, Debussy, Rachmaninov, subtle differences in touch deeply excite the listener.

2. Dynamics – the spiritual landscape of the work

2.1. The meaning of dynamics

Dynamics – the high-lowness of the sound. Each of the signs “pp – p – mp – mf – f – ff” plays an important role in the emotional image.

2.2. The effect of dynamic range

piano (p, pp) – tenderness, inner experience, calm mood.

forte (f, ff) – strength, drama, sharp turn.

crescendo – increasing → increasing excitement.

diminuendo – decreasing → calming, soothing.

2.3. Creating an emotional narrative through dynamics

The piano's sound palette is like an artist's color palette. Each increase and decrease controls the listener's feelings. In Beethoven's Appassionata sonata, dynamic contrasts become the main source of dramatic power.

3. Pedal - a magical tool for sound breadth

3.1. Sustain pedal (right pedal)

It prolongs the sound, enhances resonance, enriches the timbre. The level of emotionality increases.

3.2. Una Corda (left pedal)

Softens the sound, adds soft colors. Important for impressionist composers such as Debussy and Scriabin.

3.3. Middle pedal

Rarely used, but necessary to hold certain notes in complex works.

3.4. The effect of pedals on emotions

Long pedal → romantic, dreamy, calm atmosphere

Short pedal → clear, firm, sharp character

Mixed pedal → expresses complex psychological states

Chopin's nocturnes most beautifully demonstrate the role of the pedal as an "extra breath".

4. The harmony of fingers, dynamics and pedal

These three factors are not separate, but a unified emotional system.

For example:

Soft legato + low dynamics + una corda → romantic lyricism

Hard touch + forte + saturated pedal → dramatic explosion

Brilliant touch + staccato + no-pedal → cheerful, energetic image

The skill of a pianist is in choosing this harmony correctly.

Conclusion

Piano performance is not just a technical art. Its essence is to influence the soul of the listener through emotions. The correct selection of finger pressure, pedal, dynamics, articulation and sound colors reveal the true meaning of a piano piece. If every pianist deeply understands this trinity and correctly applies it in practice, the emotional power and artistic expression in the performance will be even richer.

References:

1. Saidkarimova Kumush Saidaminovna, THE ROLE OF MUSIC IN SOCIAL LIFE. (2025). American Journal of Pedagogical and Educational Research, 34, 41-43. <https://americanjournal.org/index.php/ajper/article/view/2778>
2. Lu Xiaoyan. Exploring how to skill the emotional factors in piano performance [J]. Popular Literature, 2013 (15).
3. Zhu Qi. Research on the Skills of Emotional Factors in Piano Performance [J]. Northern Music, 2018 (15).
4. Yi Hu. (2024). Research on Piano Performance and Emotional Expression. The Educational Review, USA, 8(9), 1151-1155.