



## HANDOUT

### “Teaching Concertos”

Presented by Dr. Carmen Hall

#### RESEARCH

- 1. SELECT CONCERTO OPTIONS
  - Consider the soloist and orchestra
    - Sightreading ability, body size, strength, experience
    - Size of orchestra, financial resources, experience
  - Listen
    - Encourage the student to listen to lots of concerto options at this point
    - Listen together to the concerto that is chosen to discuss challenges, form, orchestration implications
  - Recommend an edition
    - Check editions that are available and recommend the most scholarly and accurate that is available. Henle, Barenreiter
  - How do you teach a concerto you have not learned yourself?
    - Listen, play, fingering, and pedal suggestions
    - The best editions will be your most useful guide.
  - Resources - *Music for Piano and Orchestra* by Maurice Hinson; Youtube; Google
- 2. LISTEN
  - Listen to several performers and decide which one most closely matches your goals
  - With orchestra score
  - With piano score - write in instruments you hear which ones provide cues (horn, triangle)
- 3. LEARN - both of you
  - Decide on a goal tempo(s)
    - Write tempos of the recordings you have chosen - include all the changes
    - Consider the most difficult passages for your student
  - Check every note
  - Plan every fingering
  - Study expression/articulation
  - Know every rhythm
  - Study pedal

#### COACHING

##### 4. MEMORIZING

- Decide on a deadline and stick with it
- Make a plan for memorizing
- Retention - 3 tries and 3 days

## 5. LISTEN

- Listening focus changes as you progress through the process of learning
- Provides motivation
- Helps the student find mistakes they may have learned
- Decide on one you like the most - no changes toward the end

## 6. PRACTICE

- Divide the piece into sections - discuss form and harmony
- Be able to play accurately at many tempos - very slow, medium, and up to five final tempos
- Rethink difficult passages - make them look and feel easy
- Memorize hands alone

## 7. MEMORIZE THE ORCHESTRA SCORE

- Sing, play or count their parts
- Play your part while looking at the orchestral score (YouTube)
- Play along with noise-canceling headphones
- Listen to entire orchestra-only sections - be prepared to sit and focus as they play
- Where will you look during orchestra-only parts- piano, conductor, orchestra, mostly piano, not audience

## PREPARE TO PLAY

### 8. Prepare to play with a second piano

- Steady tempo
- This is different than orchestra - sounds are not coming from different directions and depths and are different than specific instruments - be sure you can hear cues

### 9. Prepare to play with orchestra

- Steady tempo
- Listen to the recording you chose many times
- Look at the "conductor" when appropriate while in your practice room
- Listen in the direction of solos or orchestra families
- Expect a score reading and 2 rehearsals. Attend with your student.

### 10. Practice performing

- Positive thoughts and talk
- Listen for instrumental solos
- Video yourself
- Practice in the clothes and shoes you will wear for performance
- Mental practice on the day of
- Stage Etiquette - practice entrance and exit with your student

Entrance - shake violinist's hand, bow, prepare, think, look at conductor  
Finish - shake conductor's hand, shake violinist's hand, bow, leave first



## SELECTED EASIER PIANO CONCERTO MOVEMENTS FOR PRE-COLLEGE STUDENTS

BACH

Keyboard Concerto No. 5 in F Minor, II. Largo

BEETHOVEN

Piano Concerto No. 4, II. Andante con moto

HAYDN

Piano Concerto in C Major

Piano Concerto in F Major

Piano Concerto No. 11 in D Major, Hob XVIII, III. Rondo All'Ungherese

HUMMEL

Concerto No. 1 in G Major Op. 73

MENDELSSOHN

Concerto in D Minor, Op. 40, II. Adagio, Molto sostenuto

MOZART – No. 5 (2nd mvt), No. 6 (3rd mvt), No. 17 (2nd mvt), No. 20, (2nd mvt), No. 23 (2nd mvt), No. 24 (2nd mvt), No. 27 (2nd mvt)

SCHUMANN

Piano Concerto in A Minor, Op. 54, II. Intermezzo - Andantino grazioso

SHOSTAKOVICH

Piano Concerto No. 2, Op. 102, II. Andante

## SELECTED MORE DIFFICULT PIANO CONCERTOS FOR PRE-COLLEGE STUDENTS

BEETHOVEN

Piano Concerto No. 1

Piano Concerto No. 2

GERSHWIN

Rhapsody in Blue

GRIEG

Piano Concerto

MENDELSSOHN

Piano Concerto No. 1 in G Minor

Piano Concerto No. 2 in D Minor

MOZART – No. 20, No. 23, No. 24, No. 27

PROKOFIEV

Piano Concerto No. 3 in C Major, Op. 26, I. Andante - Allegro

SAINT-SAËNS

Piano Concerto No. 2 in G Minor, Op. 22, III. Presto

Piano Concerto No. 4 in C Minor, Op. 44, III. Allegro vivace