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The Etude Magazine: 1883-1957

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Volume 21, Number 09 (September 1903)

Winton J. Baltzell

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THE PUBLISHER OF THE ETUDE WILL SUPPLY ANYTHING IN MUSIC.

THE ETUDE

VOL. XXI.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., SEPTEMBER, 1893.

NO. 8.

THE PIANO STUDENT'S PROBLEM

By EDWARD MORRIS BOWMAN

MY topic makes it necessary to presuppose here our consideration of a young person who has been studying piano-playing long enough to have discovered two things, viz:

First, that he possesses pianistic musical talent. Second, that he is determined to master his art.

In the mystery of "pianistic musical talent" he will have discovered, I hope, that he has brains, taste, precision, musical ear, and an adaptable, tractable hand. Next, that his determination to master his art includes no major withdrawals so as drag him down to mediocrity, in the level of the gallery-peasant. Possessed of talent and the resolution to study, he now needs to know that there are certain definite things to accomplish. It may be true, as one famous friend says, that a pianist is given his tools "by the grace of God," but I am quite sure that he will have to get his audience, as he does his religion, "by spite of the devil."

Given these, as the pianist's position, the necessity of Hand, Heart, Hearing, and Head, we may proceed at once into a discussion of our theme: The Piano Student's Problem.

This problem falls naturally into six subdivisions, each of which I shall try to treat briefly. They are (1) Touch, (2) Technique, (3) Temperament, (4) Memory, (5) Mystery, and (6) Money.

1. Touch.

I place, as first and most important, Touch, because in its mechanical aspects Touch is the most positive of allied sciences and auxiliary considerations guide us by steady and practical knowledge to scientific methods, while, in its higher phases, Touch is the evidence of personal and intellectual development which are necessary to a successful pianistic career. A player may have a mighty brain, an efficient tongue, an inflexible memory, and a pleasing manner, yet, without temperamental touch he will fail to win the highest success. Such of the mental and mechanical equipment there must be temperament, and, as the channel of expression or outlet to used form, there must be Touch. I would not deprecate the value of technique per se, by which term I mean technicality apart from tempo-quality; but I do mean to advise that, unless the time is whitened, however, I had almost said dedicated, by touch, the art which puts into the music all and everything that through herculean, strenuous, and unceasing effort the hand of the pianist achieves, for, in my opinion, the piano student for all to adopt one of the many piano-teaching methods, and give up a certain number, which, with them left out, is a futile and extravagant expense.

Greeting, then, glad Touch is a major process, a fundamental requisite to pianistic success, the piano student will be wise first of all to catalogue his assets in that particular.

If Piano Students listen attentively to the pronouncements of an artist who has been, that artist will be joined by an infinitesimal point like a few dots in relation, the outline of such time as half being clear, but nevertheless connected to an infinite

host. Second, Piano Student will notice that some fingers slightly overlap their neighbors, so that they are joined, and that the Middle finger would produce a cross by overlapping those digits, i. e., to say that the lower fingers catch each other in a sort of diagonal, perhaps like some graphs than to speak of them as overlapping. Third, Student will observe that just other digits are neither connected nor intersected but are more or less disconnected, separated, joined. Here, then, are two general ways of presenting names to the eye, viz.—connected and disconnected. The student has now arrived at the fact of Legato and Staccato.



Edward Morris Bowman

Let him now take a posture where he can clearly watch the movements employed by the artist in producing the different kinds of legato and staccato. Instantly, he will observe that the hand and arm of the pianist is the most wonderful, as well as the most beautiful exhibition of mechanism and movement pervading every joint of the player from the shoulder to the fingers, that his arms being freely from the shoulder forward and inward to adjust the hand in the different parts of the keyboard according to constantly changing demands, and that when the arm's length falls short of reaching the desired key, the body moves backward from the hip-joint and supplies the deficiency. Then, then, are what we might call the shoulder-tuck and hip-tuck, short or long, and every result in the instruction books of your piano!

Student will observe that the stated touches comprehend force by applying the power of the muscles in a free parallel to the plane of movement. The tones in this touch is soft, however, to dry and hard. The piano touches, on the contrary, require more muscular effort, but, as a compensation for that, the tone will be more virile, more vivacious and more beautiful. The vertical touches are best adapted to the rectilinear strains, while the gliding touches, because full of life and warmth, are more effective in passages that are dramatic and expressive.

The two kinds of touch with their modifications serve the pianist admirably as auxiliaries to each other.

The Plan or Passage legato generally requires a vertical action of the finger. Student, however, always employ a modified piano touch in which the fingers are partially closed as at three-tips were about to leave touching off the surface of the keys. This form just indicates moving staccato.

Next, Student will note that the action uses both the vertical and piano forms, the vertical strain either deeper, wrist, elbow, and shoulder, singly or in combination. He will find, when acting from the wrist, elbow, and shoulder as pivoted, that the glissando forms become more elastic and less passive, are better suited to the production of harmonic tones than are the vertical movements. That a particularly early and effective tone, especially for chords, is secured by placing just the fingers combined with an upward bound of the arm, that another peculiarly compact and beautiful quality of tone is derived from a quick movement of the hand and arm forward, that is, toward the nose-board of the piano, the firmly held fingers taking their keys by a glissando touch as the hand slips and moves forward the moment of a circle, that yet another beautiful quality is produced by starting with the finger-tips resting on the surface of the keys and more or less suddenly letting the keys down by a depression of the wrist.

Student will observe that the modest pianist does not sit at the piano with arms strained to his sides as if wringing exertion as a cry or with his head and waist muscles stiffened to the condition of a park statue, but that flexibility and freedom of movement pervade every joint of the player from the shoulder to the piano-key, that his arms being freely from the shoulder forward and inward to adjust the hand in the different parts of the keyboard according to constantly changing demands, and that when the arm's length falls short of reaching the desired key, the body moves backward from the hip-joint and supplies the deficiency. Then, then, are what we might call the shoulder-tuck and hip-tuck, short or long, and every result in the instruction books of your piano!

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THE ETUDE

THE TEACHERS' ROUND TABLE.

(Continued from page 285.)

any 25th to June 19th. A price had been offered for the greatest amount of practice fee ever paid. The winner got 25 hours, or as many as two hundred and twenty-five hours, or as average of nearly three hours a day. Besides that it had been a fair day.

The first place was of about six hundred and thirty-eight hours—an amateur had won an hour per day.

The third place, however, was won as a study of a single piece of music. The first place took two and a half to two hours regular practice, no big days to make up for small ones. The second place took one and a half hours, the third place took one and a half hours, the fourth place took the revised game "Great Composers."

One of whom a dozen people, who had entered in the competition, had not even had time to practice, because they had just had to work each day one day dependent, and five or six hours for day's work were dependent. Then the teacher said that a lot of them had not even had time to practice, so he had to give up the habit of systematic study. It had been a good study, but the system had failed. Every pupil had acknowledged increased desire for better work another year—five Eighth Month.

INTERMISSION.

It is quite easy to assume reasons in my room, while lying on my sofa. I take the composition in parts.

One has been about a page, second, the other, this, have together, made, make of expansion; fifth, series of pedals.

I continue in like manner through the whole piano of music. I then practice with the metronome, would also to move the finger, or the hand, or the foot, or the head, to overcome these. This includes the hammering, which the music may be played on the piano, slowly and in tempo.

I have often measured usual music on the trap, by the way, in my room, reading over my part again and again.

A year ago, as you, I read an article in The Etude concerning Mr. Godfrey's case in considering a musical without score. I wrote the writer asking if he could not help me to get the score. He did not answer, but after a long and indecisive argument, he, then, was certainly very much aware of this way of reasoning, and I thought that since any musical person can do the same. Most musicians are required to do the same. I am sure that most of them, but at the same story for him who possesses—*an etude*.

IN ORDER TO MAKE A CHILD STUDY MUSICAL.

As answer to the above, I might say, Is it right to make a child go to school, in fact, do anything? How many children would go to school? If they were not obliged to do it. It often happens that a child does not want to go to school, but the parents insist on the child. If the child has failed to go voluntarily, he must have a desire to study; but a great many children do not have much innate talent, yet can learn easily, and become very good players, if given good instruction. A way to make them interested in music is, if a child likes music, then a choice of his becoming a good player even if he has not much talent. If he does not like it, and will not make any effort, then it is a waste of time, and money for parents to invest in his taking lessons; for he might have talents in some other direction, that would be worth while to improve.—Frederick A. Williams

RIGITAL PROGRAMS.

YOUR piano gives you a wide selection of music, looking over the piano literature, you will find that there are scores of titles of all kinds, and in all styles. But if you are interested in the best, you will find that the best is to be found in the best books. The best books are those which are well known, and which have been tested by time, which the author has had time to perfect, and which have been used by the best teachers.

MUSICAL RHYTHM. The principal piano course in Musical Rhythm, is the best book for the beginner. It is a good book, and it is well worth the money.

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No. 4241

Cathedral Echoes.

Reverie.

EDWARD M. READ.

Andante sostenuto. M. M. $\text{♩} = 80$.

Piano score for 'Cathedral Echoes. Reverie.' by Edward M. Read. The score consists of two staves. The top staff shows a treble clef, a key signature of four sharps, and a common time signature. The bottom staff shows a bass clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. The music is in a slow tempo, indicated by the instruction 'Andante sostenuto. M. M. ♩ = 80'. The notation includes various note heads, stems, and rests. A dynamic marking 'p' is present. The instruction 'Ped. simile' appears below the staff.

Ped. simile

Continuation of the piano score for 'Cathedral Echoes. Reverie.' The score continues on the same two staves. The music maintains the slow tempo and instrumentation established in the first section. The notation includes various note heads, stems, and rests, with a dynamic marking 'p' present.

Ped. simile

Meno mosso. M. M. $\text{♩} = 60$.

rall.

Fine.

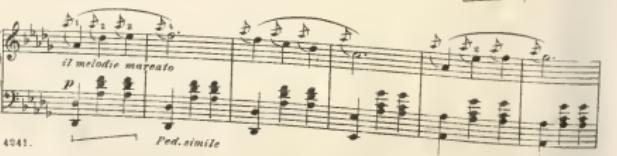
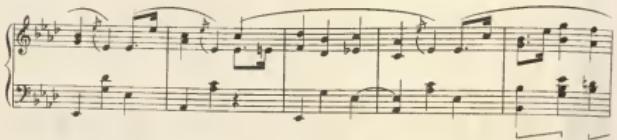
2 Ped.

pp legato

Continuation of the piano score for 'Cathedral Echoes. Reverie.' The score continues on the same two staves. The music has shifted to a 'Meno mosso' tempo, indicated by the instruction 'Meno mosso. M. M. ♩ = 60'. The notation includes various note heads, stems, and rests, with dynamic markings 'rall.', 'Fine.', '2 Ped.', and 'pp legato' present.

Final section of the piano score for 'Cathedral Echoes. Reverie.' The score continues on the same two staves. The music maintains the 'Meno mosso' tempo. The notation includes various note heads, stems, and rests.

Tempo 1.



LOHENGRIN.
INTRODUCTION TO ACT III.

R.WAGNER.
Arr. by Preston Ware Orem.

Allegro molto. M.M. ♩ = 152.

SECONDO.

Copyright, 1904, by Theo. Presser, Co.

LOHENGRIN.
INTRODUCTION TO ACT III.

R.WÄGNER.
Arr. by Preston Ware Orem.

Allegro molto. M.M. ♩ = 152.

PRIMO.

SECOND.

The image shows six staves of musical notation for piano and orchestra. The top two staves are for the piano, with the right hand in treble clef and the left hand in bass clef. The key signature changes from B major (two sharps) to A major (one sharp). Measure 11 starts with a forte dynamic. Measures 12 and 13 continue with eighth-note patterns. Measure 14 begins with a piano dynamic and includes a melodic line. Measure 15 features a sustained note. Measure 16 concludes with a forte dynamic. The bottom four staves are for the orchestra, showing parts for strings, woodwinds, and brass. The instrumentation includes violins, violas, cellos, double bass, oboes, bassoon, and trumpet. The score is written in a traditional musical staff format with various dynamics and performance instructions.

A page from a musical score for piano, featuring six staves of music. The staves are arranged in two columns of three. The top staff begins with a dynamic of f , followed by p and dim. . The second staff begins with f and p . The third staff begins with p and pius . The fourth staff begins with p , followed by f dim. and rit. . The fifth staff begins with a tempo . The sixth staff begins with molto cresc. and rit. sec. . Measure numbers 8 are present above several measures.

N° 4251

Hommage à Madame Hertges.

SHOWER OF STARS.

PLUIE D'ETOILES.

CAPRICE

Allegretto. M.M. 128.

PAUL WACHS.

Maestoso.

Copyright, 1893, by Thos. Frieser, S.

International Copyright

4251 s

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leggiero

mordet il basso

tre corde

ff

8

ff

p scintillante

ff

8

ff

13

allarg.

R.S.

Nº 4250

SALTARELLE.

Allegro vivace, M.M. 4/4 = 132.

P. LACOME.

2nd time to Coda.

1.

2. cresc.

f.s. c.

CODA.

dim.

p pp

¹⁴ N^o 4117 A Ride on the Merry Go Round.

Karussellfahrt.

H. NECKE.

Allegro vivace. M.M. $\frac{2}{4}$ = 132.

Copyright, 1903, by Thos. Presser, R.

15

16
No 4070

To Miss Florence Wiley Williams, Philadelphia.
With My Thoughts.
Mit meine Gedanken.

IDYL,

Andante quasi Larghetto. M.M. # 58

ADAM GEIBEL

Musical score for 'With My Thoughts.' by Adam Geibel, Op. 4070. The score consists of eight staves of music for piano, arranged in two systems. The first system starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a tempo of M.M. # 58. It includes dynamics such as *p*, *mp*, *dime*, *p* *delicato*, *pp*, and *ppp*. The second system begins with a bass clef, a key signature of one flat, and includes dynamics like *mf*, *pp*, *poco*, *morendo*, *ppp*, and *Fine*. The score also features various performance instructions including *Fine only*, *morendo*, *ppp*, *Fine*, *apiacere*, *mf a tempo*, *p*, *p*, *p*, *p*, *molto rull.*, and *p*. The score concludes with a copyright notice: 'Copyright 1903 by Theo. Presser.'

No 4164

FLYING THE KITE.
LE CERF-VOLANT.

17

Allegretto, M.M. q = 68

TH. SALOMÉ, Op. 44, No. 1.

Musical score for 'Flying the Kite.' by Th. Salomé, Op. 44, No. 1. The score consists of eight staves of music for piano, arranged in two systems. The first system starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a tempo of Allegretto (M.M. q = 68). It includes dynamics like *mf*, *p*, *p*, *p*, *p*, *p*, and *fine*. The second system begins with a bass clef, a key signature of one sharp, and includes dynamics like *p*, *p*, *p*, *p*, *p*, *p*, *p*, and *morendo*. The score concludes with a copyright notice: 'Copyright 1903 by Theo. Presser.'

To Mr. Theo. Presser.

WITH CASTAGNETTS.
MIT CASTAGNETTEN.

Carl Reinecke

Allegro grazioso. M.M. = 92

1st time. II Fine only

cresc. ed accel.

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D. S.

a) For small hands, the upper notes may be omitted.

By the Zuyder Zee.

Wm. H. Gardner.

Louis F. Gottschalk.

Allegretto grazioso.

Piu moto.

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THE HEAVENLY STORY.

HARTWELL-JONES

CLAUDE LYTTLETON.

Andante maestoso.

1. In the fire-light glow at
2. I lis-ten to th'an-

e - ven - tide, I dream, I dream Of a
gel - ic host, Their vol - ces down - ward fall; The

won - drous sto - ry, sweet, di - vine, Told in the star - light
sto - ry grand once more they sing, Of Him who made us

gleam; A sto - ry of the Heav'n - ly realm, A sto - ry of the
all. And on the star - ry heights of heav'n, As dreaming, I be

Throne, By an - gel voi - ces soft - ly sung, I dream, I dream a - lone.
hold A choir of souls from earth re-deemt, Touching their harps of gold.

REFRAIN.

Andante con moto.

Sing me that "Heav'n-ly Sto - ry," Sing it a - gain and a -
gain; Whis - per that ho - ly mes - sage,
Breathe that e - ter - nal strain. Come to me, spir - its im -
mor - tal, Sing me that song di - vine; Tell me that "Heav'n-ly
Sto - ry," Say that it shall be mine. 3.The
for last verse

poco anim.

sto - ry is of love di - vine, Of hu - man joy and

pain, Of sac - ri - fice and sym - pa - thy. We

ne'er shall see a - gain. From Beth - le - hem's star to th

gar - den, The gar - den to the grave;

grandioso

sto - ry of matchless beau - ty. Of Him who came to save.

rall.

colla voce

Refrain. B.C.