

# **FUNDAMENTALS OF PIANO METHODOLOGY**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	VII
	INTRODUCTION: FIRST A METHODOLOGY, THEN A METHOD .....	XI
I	STUDY OR PRACTICE?.....	1
II	METHODOLOGICALLY EFFECTIVE PRACTICE.....	9
III	BEING IN THE 'ZONE': A DESIRABLE PRECURSOR STATE TO LEARNING.....	15
IV	EFFECTIVE AND RELIABLE LEARNING: "THE NOTES HAVE BECOME YOU AND YOU HAVE BECOME THE NOTES" .....	20
V	THE FOUR STAGES OF METHODOLOGICAL LEARNING OF A PIECE OF MUSIC: - Studying the score away from the instrument .....	31
	- "Virtual Practice" .....	35
	- Work at the Keyboard .....	36
	- Verification: re-writing (re-composing) the score on paper .....	45

VI	ANALYTICAL INTERPRETATION: THE STUDY OF EXPRESSIVE GRAMMAR .....	48
VII	MEMORIZATION: A DESIRABLE SIDE EFFECT OF GOOD PRACTICE OR THE ULTIMATE RESULT OF A DELIBERATE LEARNING STRATEGY? .....	53
VIII	PARAMETERS INVOLVED IN PIANO PRACTICE AND HOW THEY RELATE TO ONE ANOTHER.....	66
IX	APPROACHES TO TECHNIQUE .....	78
X	THE PIANO LESSON: "TEACHING" OR "TRAINING"? .....	99
XI	BRIEF ANALYSIS OF SOME APPLICATIONS OF THE METHODOLOGY TO PIANO PRACTICE.....	103
X	ESSENTIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SUGGESTED READINGS.....	117

# Acknowledgements

This book has had a long gestation even though it is not very long. The methodology described below grew out of my own experiences as a student, from the writings of various historical schools of piano playing, from my own experiments in how best to prepare for performance and recording, and from my teaching of highly talented young musicians.

The book aims to integrate these observations with insights found in the recent psychological literature on learning, memory and 'excellence' in sports and music.

The present book is intended to lay the groundwork for productive study of the piano repertoire. It is addressed to serious musicians, at any level, who aim to bring their pieces rapidly and securely to performance standard while deepening their understanding of music generally.

The book provides a complete, holistic approach to learning a piece of music, approaching the tasks of musical analysis and memory from a multiplicity of angles, in accordance with the latest research on learning. It is designed as the first of a series; the next volumes apply the methodology concretely to the study of

well-known masterpieces of the piano repertoire and to issues of piano practice. They are:

- *Study Notes for Pianists: approaches to the study of six well-known masterpieces*. *Fundamentals* and *Study Notes* are already available in Italian; an English edition of *Study Notes for Pianists* is planned for 2013.
- *Documents of Pianism: essays on some great works from the piano repertoire*.
- *The 22 Principles of Piano Methodology Applied, a practical guide for pianists*, with many musical examples.

Other works in progress include a book entitled *The Talent Myth: nature or nurture?* I also plan a series of university lectures on 'The Life of the Expert,' which will explore the meaning of expertise and its implications, as discussed in the literature from Ericsson to Gladwell, Coyle, Medina and Shenk.

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