

The University of Adelaide
Elder Conservatorium of Music
Faculty of Arts

**Memorization techniques for selected piano
works between 1911 and 1953: case studies
through recorded performances and exegesis**

by

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Abstract

The primary aims of this MPhil performance based research have been to identify the memorization problems presented by selected piano works between 1911 and 1953; to develop practice strategies to overcome these problems; and to test the solutions through live/recorded performances. This study is significant because memorization techniques for post-tonal and non-tonal piano music have not been researched in depth, and this topic is rarely addressed from the perspective of a professional pianist. This exegesis identifies the most salient problems encountered when trying to memorize the selected repertoire, and presents and discusses solutions and practice strategies to overcome them. Two live DVD recordings of the selected repertoire are included, and the success of the strategies is evaluated by a critical assessment of the recorded performances.

Declarations

Originality

This work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution. To the best of my knowledge and belief, this work contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text.

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Track listing and times for Recital A, DVD

Chapter 1 György Ligeti. *Musica ricercata* (1953)

00:00 - 02:48	I. <i>Sostenuto Misurato Prestissimo</i>
02:48 - 06:20	II. <i>Mesto, rigido e cerimoniale</i>
06:20 - 07:31	III. <i>Allegro con spirito</i>
07:31 - 09:46	IV. <i>Tempo di valse (poco vivace à l'orgue de Barbarie)</i>
09:46 - 12:30	V. <i>Rubato. Lamentoso</i>
12:30 - 13:25	VI. <i>Allegro molto capriccioso</i>
13:25 - 16:41	VII. <i>Cantabile, molto legato</i>
16:41 - 17:52	VIII. <i>Vivace. Energico</i>
17:52 - 20:10	IX. <i>(Béla Bartók in Memoriam) Adagio-Mesto-Allegro maestoso</i>
20:10 - 21:45	X. <i>Vivace. Capriccioso</i>
21:45 - 25:42	XI. <i>(Omaggio a Girolamo Frescobaldi) Andante misurato e tranquillo</i>

Chapter 2 Igor Stravinsky. *Petrouchka* (1911)

26:08 - 37:10	<i>Première Tableau. Fête populaire de la semaine grasse</i>
37:10 - 41:05	<i>Deuxième Tableau. Chez Pétrouchka</i>
41:05 - 47:42	<i>Troisième Tableau. Chez le Maure</i>
47:42 - 1:01:31	<i>Quatrième Tableau. Fête populaire de la semaine grasse (Vers le soir)</i>

Track listing and times for Recital B, DVD

Chapter 1 Maurice Ravel. Valses nobles et sentimentales (1911)

00:00 - 02:03	1. <i>Modéré-très franc</i>
02:03 - 04:30	2. <i>Assez lent - avec une expression intense</i>
04:30 - 06:02	3. <i>Modéré</i>
06:02 - 07:20	4. <i>Assez animé</i>
07:20 - 08:54	5. <i>Presque lent - dans un sentimente intime</i>
08:54 - 10:20	6. <i>Assez vif</i>
10:20 - 12:35	7. <i>Moins vif</i>
12:35 - 18:00	8. <i>Epilogue: lent</i>

Chapter 2 Anton Webern. Piano Variations Op.27 (1936)

18:00 - 20:15	1. <i>Sehr mässig</i>
20:15 - 21:06	2. <i>Sehr schnell</i>
21:06 - 25:55	3. <i>Ruhig fliessend</i>

Chapter 3 Claude Debussy. From *Préludes livre II* (1913)

25:55 - 28:45	3. <i>La puerta del vino: Mouvement de Habanera</i>
28:45 - 31:45	6. <i>Général Lavine - eccentric</i>
31:45 - 38:12	12. <i>Feux d'artifice: Modérément animé</i>

Chapter 4 Olivier Messiaen. From *Vingt regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus* (1944)

38:12 - 44:20	14. <i>Regards des Anges</i>
44:20 - 55:20	15. <i>Le baiser de l'Enfant-Jésus</i>