



Thoughts on teaching

Conveying the relation of a piece of music to its historical context and socio-political background will help students to develop an informed yet personal and individual interpretation. This approach will prove fruitful especially for the complex repertoire of the 20th and 21st century. Students should also be encouraged to engage with the ideas of historically informed performance practice. Teaching a piece of music from a music-historical point of view will show new angles of interpretation of Baroque, Classical, and Romantic repertoire.

Exploring the questions of *how* and *why* a piece of music was written is tantamount in importance to technical aspects of teaching.

Chamber music is an important aspect of music education and should be encouraged from a young age. Not only does ensemble playing promote musical development but it also nurtures social skills and interactions with others. Chamber music incorporates topics that are keys to a functioning society such as respectful communication, showing empathy to others and making decisions or finding compromises based on democratic discussion.

As a teacher I wish to pass on to my students what Hermann Hesse so beautifully wrote: “For those who love and understand music with their whole heart the world will have one more dimension.”