

Thoughts on teaching

I believe that conveying the relation of a piece of music to its historical context and socio-political background helps students to develop an informed yet personal and individual interpretation. This approach proves fruitful especially for the complex repertoire of the 20th and 21st century. I also encourage my students to engage with the ideas of historically informed performance practice. Teaching a piece of music from a music-historical point of view can show students new angles of interpretation for the Baroque, Classical, and Romantic repertoire. I believe that exploring the questions of *how* and *why* a piece of music was written with students regardless of their age and level of playing is tantamount in importance to the teaching of violin technique.

The encouragement of chamber music and orchestral playing is an immensely important aspect of music education. In my view it should be promoted from the very beginning of learning an instrument. Not only does ensemble playing nurture musical development, it also furthers social skills and interactions with others. Chamber music incorporates topics that are keys to a functioning society such as showing empathy to others and making compromises and decisions based on democratic discussions.

As a teacher I wish to pass on to my students what the following quote by Hermann Hesse so beautifully expresses: “For those who love and understand music with their whole heart the world will hold another dimension.”