



## Interpretation and Style in Music

*with Vahn Armstrong*

- Music is always about something
  - Could be joy, sorrow, love, anger, or something more complex and abstract
  - Fundamentally about being human—we are not just technical machines
- Give yourself permission to be an artist
  - Being musical is about having feelings
  - You don't have to have an amazing technique to be an amazing artist
  - Don't put off being musical
- Technique and musicality are like 2 sides of a ladder—you need both to climb
  - Musicianship and the artistry are essential to the process of improving your technique
- Interpreting the music on the page
  - Manuscript is limited in what it tells us—try to do your best to do what is indicated on the page
  - Then add your own compassion, imagination, conviction
- Steal from other people (don't just copy from one)
  - Don't just listen to 1 recording and copy it, listen to 10 recordings and steal your favorite things you like from each of them—take only what you like
  - Go to live concerts every chance you get

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