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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