

From Score to Gesture

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Why do you love music? How does it make you feel? What does it unlock for you?

“It is the only place where I feel I can publicly display my emotions. I feel like it can help people who forgot what a feeling feels like.” – Interlochen student, Summer 2016

- Vulnerability is key to being an artist
- Two main responsibilities of a conductor:
 - Inspire (passion)
 - Listen

There is **much more** to music than the scientific quantifications of vertical alignment, intonation, tone, and error detection!

How are you a better musician this week? How does this show itself in your life?

- Motivations?
- Personal and collective hunger
- You are either growing or dying
- Inspire yourself, defeat burnout

Education happens through exposure and music is an aural art. We must embody artistry and provide examples of world-class musicianship.

Apprenticeship

I firmly believe music is an apprenticeship art form, as is life.

*“The **great** thing about remote or dead masters is that they **cannot** refuse you as an apprentice. You can learn whatever you want from them. They left their lesson plans in their work.”*

– Austin Kleon

Who are your musical heroes for the following scenarios? Have you shared them with your ensemble?

- Poignant entrances
- Magical releases
- Tone
- Vibrato
- Visual connectedness
- SHAPING of a phrase

If we work hard to advance as sensitive, probing musicians but choose repertoire that does not require artistry, then what are we doing?

- Teenage hype music vs. sincere music that allows for probing and depth

Phrasing (typical 8 bar phrase)

Before the phrase: *Are they ready? Are YOU ready?*

- Presence, posture, purpose
 - Teenagers fidget, professionals don't
 - Rule #1: Stare at Me
 - When casual enters the room, art exits
 - The one variable that young kids can emulate at the highest professional level is how they hold the instrument when they play
 - Two second rule (or, x number of measures before)

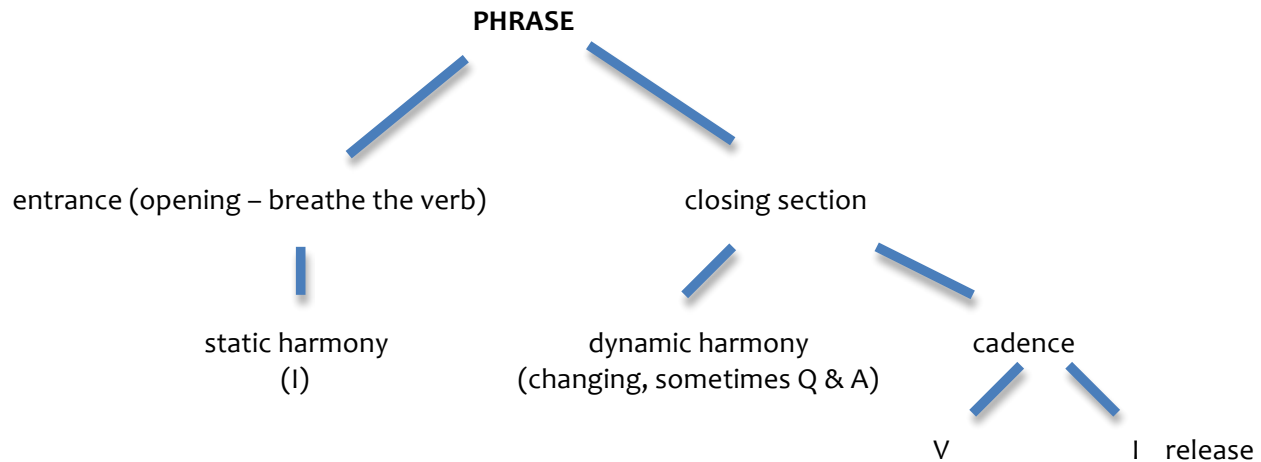
You MUST spin/shape/exaggerate the line within the phrase!

Consider advertising Schuller's "Seven Ears"

- Harmony
- Pitch/Intonation
- Dynamics
- Timbre
- Rhythm/Articulation
- Balance/Orchestration
- Line/Continuity

Why is playing music in a *feelingful* manner important?

- The magic is in between the notes
 - Music isn't about the notes, it is about the relationship between the notes
 - Don't get bored on repeated notes



Play how, not now!!

- You cannot have a sentence without a verb!
 - Verb – an action or state of being; expresses activity
 - Can you share pedagogy musically? Counting rhythms, etc.

Tabuteau System

- Analytical system for intensification and de-intensification of a phrase
 - Attempts to quantify qualities

Seven Filters

conductor

- 1 internal wants and decisions
- 2 presentation of ideas in gesture (nonverbal)
- 3 environment (space)

recipient (player)

- 4 (thinks/analyzes/consumes/deciphers)
- 5 presents sound (within their own filters)

recipient (audience)

- 6 receives sound and puts it through their filter
- 7 result

Gesture (How do you know if your gesture is resonating?)

- Watch silent video of you conducting and pretend you are the player(s)
 - What do you see?
 - What conducting technique do you see?
 - You *should* see the YOU conducting: YOUR will, YOUR fervor, every ounce of YOUR commitment
 - Do you think you are doing something but NOTHING is happening?
 - Exaggeration is key
 - Breathe your verb!

Do you want to max out your journey?

- We **MUST** max out ourselves with *passionate relentlessness* towards being insanely dedicated artists
- If we do not, then our students see an art where we are only somewhat committed; teaching them that art isn't worth every ounce of our energy

We can all be better people.

We can all be more on fire in front of our kids.

We can know our scores better.

We can commit to being more expressive.

The relentless pursuit of expression.

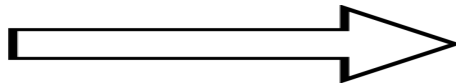
What is your personal/professional sentence?

“Art is a human activity, consisting in this, that one man consciously, by means of certain external signs, hands on to others feelings he has lived through, and that other people are infected by these feelings and also experience them.” – Leo Tolstoy, *What Is Art?* (1897)

The score is determined by what is inside of you

- Do you have a desire to be expressive? Do your students see it?
- Do you have inner emotions that are yearning to scream?

Score



Gesture

What's in between?

YOU

Suggested Reading:

- *Note Grouping* (James Thurmond)
- *Sound in Motion* (David McGill)
- *Casals and the Art of Interpretation* (David Bloom)
- *Steal Like an Artist: 10 Things Nobody Told You About Being Creative* (Austin Kleon)
- *The Look of Music from Harvard Gazette* (<http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2013/08/the-look-of-music>)