


The Way to a Dynamic Performance

Conductor as Teacher and Artist



Ralph Waldo Emerson

Selecting the Music:

The key to success in creating a Dynamic Performance is choosing pieces that you love and believe in completely.

Selecting the Music

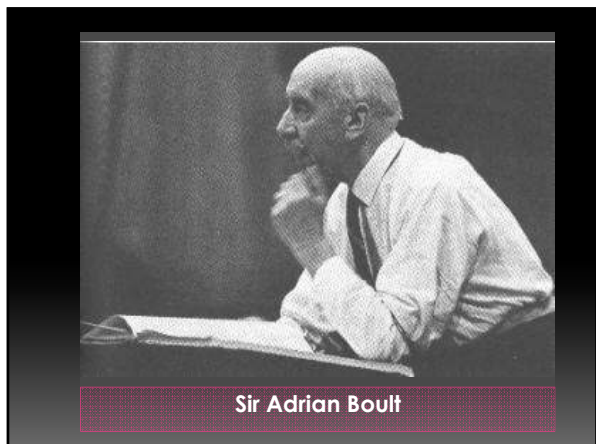
- Be artistically ambitious!

Make sure you select pieces that allow you to teach aspects of artistry and interpretation.

What makes a good concert program?

Musical Leadership means: I know my score or Beyond "Knowing" to "Understanding"

- Quiet time for developing a concept.



Let's define the word "conductor"

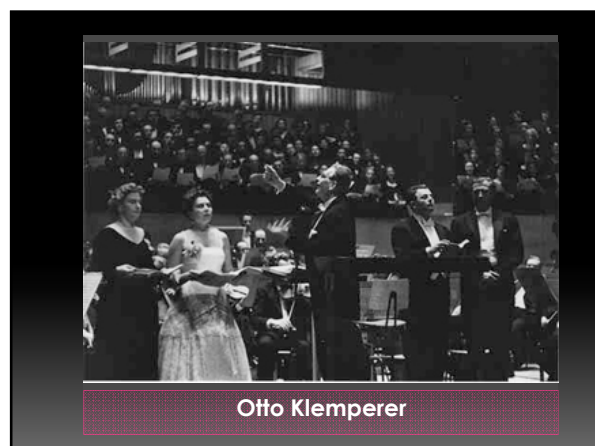
- ◉ An electrical "conduit"

Sing and play

- ◉ Developing your inner ear

Memorize the score

- ◉ Advantages and disadvantages



On the Podium in Rehearsal

- ◉ Inspiration is the only starting point.

(Think back to when you picked the piece.)

Create a dialogue of understanding with your ensemble

- ◉ Why am I here?

Build confidence and create a positive working relationship with your ensemble.

- ◉ The antidote to always saying what is wrong.

In rehearsal #1

- ◉ Empower your musicians and treat them with respect.
- ◉ Make a realistic rehearsal plan and don't waste time.
- ◉ Instill a sense of potential and responsibility simultaneously.

In rehearsal #2

- ◉ Demonstrate confidence in your musicians.
- ◉ Be demanding with a positive attitude.
- ◉ Keep the pace of each rehearsal quick without it feeling rushed.

In rehearsal #3

- ◉ Balance each rehearsal between working details and playing longer passages.
- ◉ Never let one section sit in silence for very long. If you do, you need sectional rehearsals.

In rehearsal #4

- ◉ Set realistic goals for each rehearsal.
- ◉ Acknowledge what has been achieved.
- ◉ Be clear about what the goals will be for the next session.
- ◉ Be specific about what to practice before the next rehearsal.
- ◉ Don't be afraid to tell them when something isn't good!

In rehearsal #5

- ◉ Know how well each individual in your group plays. Use this knowledge to "push" them to do their best!
- ◉ Don't get into the habit of always being the "bad guy", the one who just says what is wrong.

In rehearsal #6

- ◉ Try a different approach: If they miss a dynamic, say: "*Please note your dynamic in bar 35*".
Wait a moment –in silence- and play the passage again using your gestures to show the dynamic.

In rehearsal #7

- ◉ To fix balances ask members of a certain section who has the most important part.
- ◉ Did they all hear it well enough?
- ◉ Invite them to adjust and play it again.

In rehearsal #8

- ◉ To correct rushing, have a section with a steady rhythm play while everyone else listens.

Then repeat the passage with everyone, including the "rushers".

This helps create more attentive listening.

In rehearsal #9

- ◉ When intonation is a problem: In the case of a single line, have them sing in a comfortable octave until they can do it correctly. Play it again increasing the tempo each time.
- ◉ If it is a chorale-like passage, have them sing the parts and then play it again.

In rehearsal #10

- ◉ When rehearsing longer passages you can mention up to three things at a time that need improvement and then repeat.

When you do this take the time to review what worked and what still needs attention.

Dare to be musical.

Take risks!

On the Podium in Performance

- ◉ The pay-off for you as conductor and for your ensemble. Talk to them!

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Thank you!