

GUIDELINES FOR MUSICIANSHIP

My Guidelines for Interpretation (*Chopin strongly emphasized importance of)

Physical means:

Caress the key*

Vary speed of key descent*

Utilize key rebound*

Legato*

Suppleness of body, including arm, wrist, and fingers*

Rhythmic Swing and lilt for tempo selection

Singing tone*, phrases that breathe*, and direction*

Aural Plan of Relationships--How every note relates to every other note- short range and long range-horizontally and vertically:

Stress long notes*, high notes*, dissonances*, syncopations*, first beats*

Skeletonize

Match after rests and decaying notes; Start; Save; Round off phrases *

Group notes —Direct notes forward to goals such as long notes, dissonances, beats, downbeats, and strong bars

Set up and time arrivals

Relate harmonies and important bass notes, and highlight inner voices

From Handout on “Playing Chopin”
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