

## The Role of Musical Hearing in Piano Performance

Wenshan Xie

Minjiang University, Fuzhou, Fujian, 350000, China

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**Abstract:** Piano performance can meet the spiritual needs of the audience. To increase the appeal of piano performance, players should maintain a high degree of concentration, possess a strong musical hearing, and constantly enrich their own piano performance skills. In this paper, the role of music hearing in piano performance will be analyzed in detail as a reference.

### Introduction

In piano performance, musical hearing is especially crucial, which points out the performance direction for players. If this ability can be used properly, the students' learning enthusiasm will be inspired and the pianists' performing ability will be fully exploited. Therefore, auditory acuity is a requisite ability of piano players. Below, the role of musical hearing in piano performance will be explored.

### The Meaning of Music Hearing

Music hearing can be divided into internal hearing and external hearing, which means that human body effectively perceives harmony and rhythms in musical works and then simulates and reproduces music by using their sense organs scientifically. Below, an in-depth analysis will be conducted on musical hearing

### External Hearing

External hearing, also known as ordinary hearing, refers to the perception and identification of external sounds by human body. Stimulated by the outside world, human body can spontaneously initiate its auditory and sensory systems, feel the effect brought about by sounds of outside world, and then make body movements under guidance through analysis.

### Internal Hearing

Internal hearing refers to human ability to listen from the bottom of heart, which is a kind of psychological state built up in the cognitive process of human body. Through an analysis of internal hearing from the perspective of psychology, it is found that internal hearing is a kind of behavior and activity automatically produced by the human brain after people perceive music, and also a kind of ability to mobilize other skills of the human body to work and then carry out all kinds of activities based on musical perception. This kind of ability plays a significant role in the launch of musical activities and the spread of the charm of music.

### The Role of Musical Hearing in Piano Performance

**Musical hearing can enhance players' ability to perceive music.** In piano performance, internal hearing refers to the player's feeling and comprehension of musical performance. Long-term practice can effectively improve the players' internal hearing. Through practice, their sense of music can be enriched and the aesthetic ability can be enhanced. After the players' internal hearing is improved, during practice, their sense of music can be better inspired, their musical accomplishment can be

elevated and their musical expressive power can be enhanced. Moreover, after day-to-day accumulation, the player can create more wonderful piano pieces.

Only by truly perceiving music using one's innermost being, can one better feel the unique charm of music. And only by calming down, feeling and listening attentively, can a player find and correct shortcomings in their skills and expressions in a timely manner during performance, reasonably control the timbre and tempo of music and create more appealing piano performance. Additionally, using internal hearing properly in piano performance is also conducive to players' immersion in music perception and makes every note played out filled with sincere emotions. In this case, the music would be more appealing to the masses.

**Musical hearing is a requisite ability for pianists.** External hearing is also particularly important. External hearing refers to the basic understanding and feeling of music by human sense organs. The main factors to perceive in external hearing include the melodies, rhythms and notes of music, etc. External hearing can help players judge the accuracy and proficiency of their performance skills and is a non-negligible ability in piano performance. External hearing can help players judge the accuracy of performance, make them gain a more accurate and deeper understanding of the performance content, and urge themselves to strengthen skill training. Through long-term unceasing practice, players can significantly improve their performance level and grasp the melody, rhythm and notes in piano performance more deftly.

Moreover, listening to pianists' piano performance attentively with the help of external hearing can also improve the players' connoisseurship and elevate their taste of music, so that they can gain a deeper insight into the connotations of piano performance and incorporate their own understanding of the piano piece into the performance. While listening to excellent piano performance using external hearing, one should also learn performance skills of excellent pianists, figure out the ideological and emotional changes of excellent players in the process of performance, savvy the sentiments of piano performance, and strengthen the ability to play the piano. At the same time, using external hearing, players can also better grasp the relationship between harmony and instrument and effectively improve their performance level.

**Musical hearing plays a guiding role in piano performance.** In order to grasp piano performance skills more proficiently, players should step up the practice of piano. After all-round piano practice, players shall be able to fully understand and master basic skills of piano performance. During the practice, piano players should use musical hearing properly to deeply understand the performance skills and performance level of pianists, and then strengthen training according to the existing problems in their performance. Such a practice mode can effectively improve their ability to play the piano. It is also the fastest-acting practice method.

Musical hearing plays a vital role in piano performance and can guide pianists to play the piano more skillfully. The role of musical hearing in the primary stage of piano performance is especially evident. Pianist starters can listen to the sounds of piano and play the piano on this basis, to express their understanding of musical works, increase the lifelikeness of the works and demonstrate the unique charm of the works.

**Musical hearing can help perfect piano performance.** Musical hearing can help promote the development and progress of piano performance. Some people equate performance skills with performance level, and this view has obvious limitations. In piano performance, important as skills are, the understanding of music is equally important, and the two are mutually supplementary. In piano contests between human beings and robots, the difference between them in sound track is especially distinct. When the same tune is played, the sound tracks may differ. The occurrence of this phenomenon is related to the way the robots play. Robots just repeat the skills mechanically, while human beings blend their own understanding and sentiments of music into the piano performance, which leads to inevitable differences between the two in terms of sound track. Although robots play more accurately, the piano pieces played by human beings are more appealing.

To optimize performance level, people must gradually improve their understanding of music in long-term exercise. To this end, players should take effective measures to constantly improve their

musical hearing. Only with a strong musical hearing can players better perceive and apprehend the characteristics and differences between notes, and further improve their performance level. Only by enhancing individual ability to perceive piano pieces constantly, can players play the piano better. Piano performance is composed of multiple notes. Only by strengthening the perception of each note can players express the unique sentiments and thoughts in the piano pieces more deeply and guide the audience to appreciate the glamour of piano pieces.

### **An Analysis of the Application of Musical Hearing in Piano Performance**

**The application of musical hearing in piano performance.** In piano performance, player needs to accurately convey the essence of music and demonstrate the profound sentiments inside the piano pieces. To fully meet the above requirements, when playing piano pieces, players should understand the ideological connotation in piano pieces by using musical hearing properly and then express particular emotions and thoughts, in combination with their own thoughts and sentiments. In piano performance, players are supposed to play works silently in the heart using musical hearing before performance and make good preparations for the performance. During the performance, players can sense their own performance level using external hearing and adjust the details in the performance timely, so as to achieve an ideal performance effect. Under this circumstance, the players' attention is focused on musical feeling and they are able to play the music more attentively. On the other hand, their tension can be relieved and the overall performance level can be optimized in an all-round way.

**The application of musical hearing in art re-creation.** is a kind of creation, and so is music. The players' incorporation of their own thoughts and sentiments into the process of performance, in a sense, is a re-creation of the piano pieces. It is also precisely because of this that musicians can create more and better musical works. To achieve the above goals, one should take advantage of internal hearing and external hearing properly, to feel the sentiments implied in the musical works in a more all-sided and exquisite way, and perceive the rhythm and melody of musical works attentively, endow the works with richer connotations, integrate the melody and rhythm actively and guarantee the overall effect of piano performance. Only with a deep insight into musical works, can one better create music works.

### **Effective Ways to Cultivate Internal Hearing**

**To understand and grasp the piano works accurately.** With an accurate grasp and control of musical works, players can improve the internal ability to perceive music and cultivate internal hearing. If a pianist cannot understand and perceive musical works accurately, then his/her internal hearing may not be effectively improved. Although proficiency is particularly important in piano performance, the understanding and perception of piano pieces are also to be reckoned with. Before performance, the players should grasp the thoughts, sentiments and connotations that composers want to express in their works, and engrave the contents expressed by these works in their mind and express sincere emotions and profound thoughts on this basis. Internal hearing is inseparable from players' deep understanding of piano pieces. So during training, to deepen the perception of musical works constantly is conducive to the improvement of players' internal hearing and can enrich their performance skills, so as to achieve an ideal training effect, guide the players to play heartily in music perception, and present an audio-visual feast to the audience.

**To pay more attention to emotional expression.** Internal hearing has a close relationship with the players' emotions. In piano performance, players usually express musical emotions by combining their own understanding of music with the memory of music scores. Emotional expression is also a process of excavating auditory memory. In a manner of speaking, emotional expression is of great significance for internal hearing and the two affect each other. For this reason, in daily training, if players can savvy the sentiments in the music more comprehensively and fully, and express the sentiments reasonably during performance, their internal hearing will be improved and the overall presentation effect of piano

performance will be guaranteed. Here, special attention should be paid here to the fact that the sentiments in music should not be switched or changed arbitrarily during performance, and piano performance should be completed according to the composer's real intentions and sentiments conveyed by the music.

**To strengthen the training of voice part hearing.** In piano performance, voice part practice is a very fundamental and important step. During performance, players should judge the melody of different music pieces accurately. Excellent performance can be divided into different voice parts and these voice parts can enrich the hierarchy of music. While giving professional training to players, the top priority is to cultivate their internal hearing and take effective measures to train their voice part hearing, organize musical scales according to the actual situation of players, train them in a comprehensive way, and deeply understand and catch hold of the musical structure. In voice part hearing, Bach's *The Well-tempered Clavier* can be selected. If this work is applied to voice part hearing, the effect will be very obvious. Different voice parts can make the melodies interwoven with each other, especially for fugues. Moreover, a single piece of multi-part music may have different trends and frames, which can also help improve the players' internal hearing.

**Melody hearing training.** Piano performance is a method to represent the melodies of music. For different music, the melodies played out by the piano may vary greatly. Also there is a slight different in the representation form in the process of natural performance. However, it is exactly because of the performance effect of these different melodies that the essence of music can be demonstrated in front of appreciators and the charm of music can be conveyed. Therefore, during performance, it is very necessary to train melody hearing. Melody is the soul of music performance. In piano performance, the sentiments and artistic conception expressed by different melodies vary greatly. Naturally, the audio-visual effects presented to the audience differ, too. Only by catching the melodies of music reasonably and constantly perfecting the piano performance skills can players effectively improve the performance effect and an emotional resonance be aroused among the audience. For this reason, the players need to distinguish the scale of each melody meticulously and deeply understand the creation background of music and the creators' expression of sentiments. Only in this way can the players improve the representation effect of music and enhance their internal hearing.

**To develop imagination control.** Imagination control training is an important method to enhance players' internal hearing. Both imagination control and internal hearing are a kind of subjective ideology. The increase of imagination control can help players better understand the trend of melody and rhythm of music, thereby capturing the core content expressed by them and improving the performance effect of piano pieces. On the hand, to handle strength training, players also need to reflect on and imagine the scenes represented by the music in depth, fully immerse themselves in the music, present different styles, strengthen the overall effect of performance through their own understanding and demonstration of skills, so as to strike a chord with the audience and show the glamour of music.

## Summary

To sum up, in the stage of piano performance, the role of players' internal hearing is self-evident. The cultivation of internal hearing is a key step of piano performance. Good internal hearing can help players better savvy the sentiments and unique ideas implied in piano pieces. Therefore, in daily practice, players should enhance their own internal hearing and deepen the appeal of piano performance through excellent performance skills and accurate grasp of sentiments in piano pieces, so as to achieve an emotional resonance between the audience and players.

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