



# Piano Performance Practice and Exploration under the Perspective of Music Aesthetics

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**Abstract.** This paper discusses some critical issues in piano performance practice from the perspective of music aesthetics. The understanding of music aesthetics and the characteristics of piano performance puts forward some suggestions for practicing piano performance to enrich theoretical knowledge, playing skills, and emotional expression. Finally, it explores and looks forward to the piano performance from the perspective of music aesthetics in the new era so that piano performers can better understand the connotation of music aesthetics and transform it into beautiful performances.

**Keywords:** Music aesthetics; piano performance; practice; exploration

## 1 Introduction

As an important musical instrument, the performance practice of the piano has been receiving wide attention. In the process of piano performance, how the artist can present the work perfectly to the audience through the use of skills and musical expression has been a continuous exploration of the piano players. Music aesthetics is a discipline that studies the nature and laws of beauty in music art, which includes the analysis and interpretation of musical works and the aesthetic evaluation and exploration of musical performances. The piano has a wide range of applications and rich, expressive power, and the study of its performance practice has important theoretical and practical significance. This paper will explore some key issues in piano performance practice from the perspective of music aesthetics and, at the same time, provide some useful insights and guidance for piano players.

## 2 Basic Theory of Music Aesthetics and Piano Performance Characteristics

### 2.1 The Basic Theory of Music Aesthetics

An important sub-field of the aesthetic system is music aesthetics, which is also an important way of reflecting the intrinsic laws and essential characteristics of music in the field of music art. Music aesthetics covers a wide range of areas, such as music

composition, performance skills, aesthetic literacy, appreciation, etc. The concept of music aesthetics has long been recognized as a basic category of art. As a basic art category, the concept of music aesthetics has been mentioned as early as in ancient Chinese music texts [1].

In ancient times, music aesthetics was often integrated with music performance, and the rich expression of music aesthetics made music works more tense and infectious. The “mood” of a musical work plays an important role in musical performance; for example, the famous aesthetician Xu Shangying's “Xishan Qin Situation” at the end of the Ming and the beginning of the Qing Dynasty fully demonstrates the ingenuity of the “mood.” Xishan Qin Situation” analyzes the important role of music aesthetics on music performance from different perspectives, such as music playing skills, expression, and instrumental music [2]. Through further exploration and analysis of the practice of guqin playing skills and aesthetic theories, it is pointed out that playing the qin must firstly be purely and free in playing skills, and only based on the use of musical chapters, phrases, and readings can produce pleasing tones. Finally, it is necessary to seek the aesthetic meaning of “sound” and “meaning,” as well as “harmony.” For example, the classical Chinese text Zhou Li Chun Guan also elaborates on the important ideas of music aesthetics, which focuses on the relationship between ritual and music and the transformation of heaven and earth, the production of all kinds of things, the affairs of ghosts and gods, and the harmony of all the people. The above ancient texts confirm the artistic value of music aesthetics from different perspectives, and the idea of rites and music has been reflected in the pre-Qin period.

In music performance, piano performance is a common means of musical expression, which usually has a strong artistic rendering effect, and the performer needs to deeply understand the connotation of the work and systematically analyze the aesthetic elements in the performance process. By carefully interpreting the harmony, beat, counterpoint, and pattern, the performer can accurately grasp the musical work's compositional background, thoughts and feelings, and stylistic characteristics. Based on the performer's aesthetics training, the image of music aesthetics can be visualized so that the performer can better interpret their unique insights into the musical work and then perform their unique performance works.

The study of music aesthetics requires the researcher to have the background knowledge of musicology and the core qualities of aesthetics, which is a cross-discipline between musicology and aesthetics and is based on the further extension and expansion of musicology and aesthetics. Music aesthetics provides basic theoretical support for researchers to analyze the intrinsic laws of the nature of music. In ancient times, many music creators intentionally or unintentionally incorporated the idea of music aesthetics into the creative process [3]. With the help of music aesthetics, music has various elements, and its related functions can be fully displayed.

## 2.2 Characteristics of Piano Performance

Piano performance has unique characteristics, including technical, expressive, and personal style. Piano players need to have superior skills, express their emotions and thoughts through music, and shape their own unique artistic style.

(1) Piano playing requires a high level of skill. The piano is a complex instrument, and playing it requires skillful mastery of the accurate strength, speed, and coordination of the fingers. Players need a lot of practice and skill training to play notes and intervals accurately and show smooth fingering and technique.

(2) Piano playing requires excellent expressiveness. Music is a language through which rich emotions and thoughts can be expressed. Piano players need to convey the emotion and mood of a work through delicate timbre, dynamic changes, and musical extensibility. They need to be able to accurately capture and express the emotional twists and expressions in the work so that the audience can feel the emotional resonance conveyed by the music.

(3) Piano playing needs to shape a unique personal artistic style. Every piano player has a unique artistic style and personality. They can show their individual characteristics through their own way of playing, music interpretation, and expression. Some players are inclined to the romantic style, which emphasizes the expression of emotion and the softness of the music. In contrast, others are inclined to the classical style, which focuses on the structure of the music and the display of technique. By shaping their unique artistic style, piano players can be different and leave a deep impression on the audience.

(4) Piano performance requires the performer to have superior skills, express their emotions and thoughts through music, and shape their unique artistic style. Only by mastering these elements can the performer show an excellent performance level and personal charisma on the music stage and bring deep artistic enjoyment to the audience.

In the performance of the piano, the performer can express the aesthetic ideas in the music from various angles, such as playing techniques and expression forms. The music's aesthetic ideas are integrated into the piano through the player's fingering and melody. In this regard, as a professional piano player, one should fully understand the background of the era in which the piece is performed, the composer's style of playing, and the mood that the composer wants to express in the whole piece of music, to understand better the aesthetics of the piece and the significance that the piece brings to the world.

## 3 Piano Performance Practice from the Perspective of Music Aesthetics

In performing a musical work, the performer not only needs to have excellent musicianship, but must also be able to clearly express and present the emotions and ideas in the work. Some of these emotions and ideas are given to the work by the composer, while the performer gives others through personal interpretation. To improve their

playing skills, performers must accurately understand the ideological connotations of the work. In the actual performance process, they need to comprehensively combine piano playing with music aesthetics knowledge and communicate and interact with the composer at the spiritual level to prepare to realize ideological resonance.

When integrating music aesthetics knowledge into piano performance, performers should emphasize the learning of theoretical knowledge, the accumulation of practical experience and the improvement of skills. This comprehensive improvement will help them better convey the work's emotions and thoughts in their performance. Only by improving themselves in emotional expression can they better show the aesthetics of music through piano performance.

Therefore, performers need to fully utilize their skills and talents when implementing piano performance and apply the knowledge of music aesthetics in their actual performance. Through spiritual communication with the composer and the understanding of the ideological connotation of the work, the performer can better express the emotions and thoughts in the work to realize the ideological resonance with the audience [4]. At the same time, performers should pay attention to continuous learning and improve their performance skills and emotional expression ability to more effectively show the unique charm of music aesthetics in piano performance. Next, this paper will provide a comprehensive overview and discussion of this topic from the following four aspects.

### **3.1 Enrichment of Music Theory**

Performers must have a wealth of knowledge of music theory and often have to learn the latest knowledge, and through practice to live and learn, theory guides practice. A player's rich understanding of music theory is very important. Music theory is a systematic study and summary of music's structure, form, harmony, and rhythm. By studying music theory, a performer can better understand the connotation and structure of a musical work, thus interpreting the intention of the work more accurately.

However, music is a constantly evolving art form, and new music theory knowledge is continually emerging. Therefore, performers need to learn the latest music theory knowledge frequently to keep up with the trends of the times and the development of music. Learning new knowledge can help players broaden their horizons, enrich their artistic expression, and, at the same time, improve their performance level. Theoretical knowledge alone is not enough. Players must also learn through practice, combining theoretical knowledge with actual performance. Only by constantly applying theoretical knowledge in practice can a player better understand and experience the connotation of a musical work and accurately express the emotions and thoughts of the work.

Theory-guided practice is an important principle in playing. Through theory-guided practice, the performer can better grasp the technique and expression of the work, as well as the period and style characteristics of the music. Theoretical knowledge provides a guide and framework for performers, helping them express the beauty and emotion of music more accurately and making their performance more exciting and moving.

### 3.2 Technique of Performing the Work

Piano performance technique is the foundation and prerequisite, including finger dexterity, tone control, and tempo mastery. Piano performers need to improve their skills through continuous practice and exploration. The technique is very important in piano performance, and finger dexterity, control of timbre, and mastery of tempo are the core elements of piano performance technique [5]. First of all, finger dexterity refers to the player's ability to use his fingers flexibly and freely, press the keys accurately, and achieve a smooth playing effect. Players need to improve finger dexterity through repeated practice and specialized finger training to jump and play coherently, quickly, and accurately. Secondly, tone control refers to the player's ability to accurately control the strength and speed of the keys to produce rich tonal variations. The player needs to develop sensitivity and control of timbre through practice and experience to express each note with just the right timbre. Finally, mastery of tempo refers to the player's ability to accurately master the tempo of different pieces and phrases to maintain a sense of rhythm and fluidity in the music. Performers need to gradually improve their tempo control through practice and repetition so that each note can be played precisely at the intended tempo.

To improve their technique, piano players need to practice and explore. Practice is the key to improving technique. Players need to plan daily practice, including finger dexterity training, tone control practice, and speed mastery. At the same time, players should constantly experiment with new repertoire and phrases, pushing the limits of their technique to expand their playing ability and musical expression. In addition to practicing, exploration is an important way to improve technique. By participating in music competitions, exchanging and cooperating with other musicians, etc., performers can constantly expand their musical horizons and learn and borrow the skills and experiences of different performers to continuously improve their performance level.

### 3.3 Emotional Expression of the Performer

The expression of piano performance is the process of conveying emotions and thoughts through the language of music. Piano performers must find a suitable expression through an in-depth understanding of the musical work and convey it to the audience through delicate playing skills [6]. In piano performance, expression bridges the performer and the audience. The performer needs to explore the emotions and thoughts contained in the work through a deep understanding of the musical work. By comprehending the connotation of the work and the story behind it, the performer can better grasp the work's expression requirements and present the audience with a more authentic and in-depth interpretation of the music.

To make an accurate expression, the piano player needs to find the right way of expression. This includes the choice of timbre, dynamics changes and rhythm mastery. Through the delicate control of timbre, the player can present the piece's emotional color. Through dynamic changes, the player can vividly present the piece's emotional transitions and expressive techniques. The performer can bring a sense of rhythm and fluency to the audience through accurate rhythmic mastery. Through the

use of these means of expression, the performer can convey the emotions and thoughts of the piece more vividly to the audience. However, delicate playing technique is the key to achieving expression. Performers need to improve their playing skills through repeated practice and continuous exploration. Finger dexterity, note accuracy, and speed are all important aspects of technique. Only through delicate playing skills can the performer convey the inner emotions and thoughts to the audience precisely through the musical language.

In conclusion, the expression of piano performance is the process of conveying emotions and thoughts through the language of music. The performer needs to find a suitable way of expression through an in-depth understanding of the musical work and convey it to the audience through delicate playing skills. Only through the perfect combination of understanding, expression, and technique, the performer can truly realize the expression of music so that the audience can deeply feel the emotions and thoughts conveyed by the music.

### **3.4 Performance Experience and Personal Style**

Performance experience is a valuable asset accumulated by piano players through long-term study and practice. Through constant practice and stage experience, the performer becomes more proficient in the skills and techniques of piano playing. Performance experience enables the player to better cope with various performance challenges and musical demands and to deal with unforeseen situations in performance. The accumulation of experience also enables the player to understand the music more deeply and express the work's emotions and ideas more accurately.

Personal style is the unique charm and individual characteristics of the piano player. Every piano player has unique musical understanding and aesthetic point of view, which determines their way of expression and interpretation style in playing. Some players are inclined to the romantic style, emphasizing the expression of emotion and the softness of the music. In contrast, others are inclined to the classical style, focusing on the structure of the music and the display of techniques. By displaying their style, piano players can distinguish themselves, leave a deep impression on the audience, and interpret the music with a unique flavor and infectious force.

## **4 Exploration of Piano Performance from the Perspective of Music Aesthetics**

### **4.1 Interpretation and Re-creation of Musical Works**

In interpreting piano musical works, music's aesthetic vision focuses on visual associations triggered by auditory stimuli. Performers can outline the musical images in the work through delicate playing techniques, dynamic timbre changes, and an accurate sense of rhythm. The audience can feel the music's images, colors, and emotions through their sense of hearing and form visual impressions in their minds. This creation of visual associations brings the audience richer feelings and experiences.

Re-creation refers to incorporating one's visual understanding into the performance through artistic imagination and creativity. The performer can reinterpret the musical work by changing the timbre, tempo, rhythm, and playing techniques, giving it a unique artistic image. This re-interpretation reveals the performer's understanding and aesthetic viewpoint of the music. It injects a new artistic charm into the work, making it more vivid and expressive.

By integrating visual association and personal creativity into the performance, the expression of the work becomes more colorful. Through the creation of visual association and the display of individual creativity, the performer can make the audience not only enjoy the auditory sensation when enjoying the music but also further feel the artistic mood and emotional expression of the music through visual imagination. This kind of music aesthetic visual interpretation and re-creation injects more artistry and personalization into the piano music works, allowing the audience a richer and deeper musical experience in appreciation.

## **4.2 Integration of Music with Other Art Forms**

The combination of piano music and visual art can stimulate the audience's visual association and imagination through the music's rhythm, timbre, and emotion. The performer can transform the images, colors, and emotions in the musical work into the audience's visual impression through the expressive power of music so that the audience will have a strong visual feeling when enjoying the music. At the same time, visual arts can also echo piano music through stage sets, lighting effects, and other means, creating a richer and more unique viewing experience.

In addition, piano music can be combined with dance and theater to create a more comprehensive and interesting art form. The melody and rhythm of the music can provide inspiration and motivation for the dancers, who, through their body movement, transform the music's beauty into visual aesthetics. At the same time, piano music can provide emotional expression and atmosphere creation for theater works, so that the audience can more truly feel the emotions and stories conveyed by the theater works.

## **4.3 Emerging Technologies in Piano Performance**

In the context of the new era, the application of emerging technologies gives the piano performance a richer visual effect. For example, projection technology can project images, videos, or animations onto the stage or background during the performance, creating more vivid and diverse visual pictures for the audience. The presentation of this visual effect is combined with the melody and emotion of the music so that the audience can more comprehensively feel the mood and emotion conveyed by the musical work. In addition, the application of virtual reality technology also provides a more immersive performance experience for piano players, and the audience can enter the world of music with the performer by wearing VR equipment to get a more immersive feeling.

At the same time, the application of emerging technologies has brought more creative space and personalized expression for piano players. For example, through the audio processing technology, the performer can adjust the timbre, sound effects, and sound effects in real-time, making the music work more rich and diverse. In addition, the application of real-time arranging technology allows the performer to improvise during the performance process, injecting unique artistic charm into the work with personal creativity and imagination. This personalized expression allows piano players to show a unique style and musical understanding, bringing the audience a richer and more profound musical experience.

## 5 Conclusions and Outlook

Through the study of piano performance practice and exploration under the vision of music aesthetics, the artistic level and performance ability of piano players can be improved, and the development of piano performance art can be further promoted. Piano performance practice under the vision of music aesthetics is a comprehensive process involving the enrichment of music-theoretical knowledge, the skillful mastery of the performance techniques of the works, the accurate conveyance of the performer's emotional expression, and the unique demonstration of personal style. At the same time, we expect piano players to improve their musical literacy and skill level continuously and to show a more distinctive and rich aesthetic vision of music through an in-depth understanding of musical works and personal creative expression. Future research can continue to explore in-depth the aspects of piano performance in terms of technique, expression, and personal style and combine them with emerging technologies and cross-border art forms to bring more innovations and breakthroughs to piano performance.

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