

Tips on How to Write a Story for Your Piece of Music

Why it is beneficial

- It helps reduce anxiety when performing by giving you something more pleasant to think about. Remembering a part of a story takes your focus away from trying to perfect every note and technical aspect and allows you to feel and express the meaning of the music.

Don't stress about the perfect story

- You don't have to write a really good story, just think of simple ideas for a scene where your mind has the freedom to imagine while you're performing.
 - Ex: In the Pie Sonata, the opening section is just labeled as "a man is happy eating pie." It's simple so each time you practice or perform, you can picture this man, the pie, and his surroundings differently.

How to identify sections/mood changes

- First of all, LISTEN to the music with the score in hand
- Then, look/listen for differences in:
 - Melody
 - Note is being tonicized/harmony
 - Rhythms/rhythmic patterns
 - Tempo
 - Articulation
 - Texture
 - Octave/register

How to start

- Choose a character (you or something living/not living)
- What is the character doing?
- Where is the character?
- When you get to a new section/mood in the music, what does the change remind you of?
- How does this change affect the character?

*A copy of the Pie Sonata is on the back for your reference

The pie story

SONATA

in G major
for Cello and Piano*

MARTIN BERTEAU
(c. 1700 - 1771)

Edited by LEONARD ROSE

Allegro

CELLO

2

joyful,
eating lots
and lots of
pie :-)

7 joyful,
eating lots
and lots of
pie :-)

13

19

25 sneaky to steal more pie

31 caught stealing pie - broke (argomenti)

37 building roge - being chased gets away - hides in corner eating

43 mad - someone steps on toe joyful again because at least

49 he has pie needs more pie - becomes sneaky to steal more

62

70 caught again

76 sent to jail :-)

82 jail makes pie!

88 eats more pie - gets better; gets out of

94 jail and starts building a pie factory

102

106 yay! yay!