

The Language of Music

A painter hangs his or her finished pictures on a wall, and everyone can see it. A composer writes a work, but no one can hear it until it is performed. Professional singers and players have great responsibilities, for the composer is **utterly** dependent on them. A student of music needs as long and as **arduous** a training to become a performer as a medical student needs to become a doctor. Most training is concerned with **technique**, for musicians have to have the **muscular proficiency** of an **athlete** or a **ballet** dancer. Singers practice breathing every day, as their vocal chords would be inadequate without controlled muscular support. **String** players practice moving the fingers of the left hand up and down, while **drawing** the **bow to and fro** with the right arm --two entirely different movements.

Singers and instruments have to be able to get every **note** perfectly **in tune**. Pianists are **spared** this particular anxiety, for the notes are already there, waiting for them, and it is the piano **tuner's** responsibility to tune the instrument for them. But they have their own difficulties; the hammers that hit the string have to be **coaxed** not to sound like **percussion**, and each **overlapping** tone has to sound clear.

This problem of getting clear **texture** is one that **confronts** student conductors: they have to learn to know every note of the music and how it should sound, and they have to aim at controlling these sound with **fanatical** but selfless authority.

Technique is of no use unless it is combined with musical knowledge and understanding. Great artists are those who are so **thoroughly at home** in the language of music that they can enjoy performing works written in any century.

译文

音乐的语言

画家将已完成的作品挂在墙上，每个人都可以观赏到作曲家写完了一部作品，得由演奏者将其演奏出来，其他人才能得以欣赏。因为作曲家是如此完全地依赖于职业歌手和职业演奏者，所以职业歌手和职业演奏者肩上的担子可谓不轻。一名学音乐的学生要想成为一名演奏者，需要经受长期的、严格的训练，就象一名医科的学生要成为一名医生一样绝大多数的训练是技巧性的。音乐家们控制肌肉的熟练程度，必须达到与运动员或芭蕾舞演员相当的水平。歌手们每天都练习吊嗓子，因为如果不能有效地控制肌肉的话，他们的声带将不能满足演唱的要求。弦乐器的演奏者练习的则是在左手的手指上下滑动的同时，用右手前后拉动琴弓--两个截然不同的动作。

歌手和乐器演奏者必须使所有的音符完全相同协调。钢琴家们则不用操这份心，因为每个音符都已在那里等待着他们了。给钢琴调音是调音师的职责，但调音师们也有他们的难处：他们必须耐心地调理敲击琴弦的音锤，不能让音锤发出的声音象是打击乐器，而且每个交叠的音都必须清晰。

如何得到乐章清晰的纹理是学生指挥们所面临的难题。他们必须学会了解音乐中的每一个音及其发音。

之道。他们还必须致力于以热忱而又客观的权威去控制这些音符。

除非是和音乐方面的知识和悟性结合起来, 单纯的技巧没有任何用处。艺术家之所以伟大在于他们对音乐语言驾轻就熟, 以致于可以满怀喜悦地演出写于任何时代的作品。

词汇

arduous	/ˈɑːdʒuəs/	adj.	艰难的
muscular	/ˈmʌskjʊlə/	adj.	肌肉的
proficiency	/prəˈfɪʃənsi/	n.	熟练
ballet	/ˈbæleɪ/	n.	芭蕾舞
vocal chord		n.	声带
string	/striŋ/	n.	弦乐器
draw	/drɔː/	v.	拉动 to pull
bow	/bəʊ/	n.	琴弓
to and fro			前后, 来回
in tune			入调
spare	/spɛə/	v.	用不着
note	/nəʊt/	n.	乐音, 律音
tuner	/ˈtjuːnə/	n.	调音师
coax	/kəʊks/	v.	哄诱
overlap	/ˈəʊvəˈlæp/	v.	部分重叠
texture	/ˈtekstʃə/	n.	质地, 纹理
fanatical	/fəˈnætɪkəl/	adj.	狂热
technique	/tekˈniːk/	n.	技巧
at home			熟悉, 精擅
thoroughly	/ˈθʌrəli/		
utterly	/ˈʌtəli/		
athlete	/ˈæθliːt/		
percussion	/pəˈkʌʃən/		
confront	/kənˈfrʌnt/		