

*** PHRASING FOR DRAMA AND MEANING ***

Concepts:

- ❖ *Close yourself into your own world* & really experience the music --- live in it & tap into the music itself, not just your playing of it
- ❖ *Influence* the audience members
- ❖ Try to *move your own soul*
- ❖ *Study* your style, but mainly *feel* it
- ❖ Make *statements* with your music
- ❖ Express *what matters a lot to you*
- ❖ Think of *words and ideas*
- ❖ *Phrase notes* like *sentences*
- ❖ Keep in mind the *overall arch of the piece*
- ❖ *Move through time* in a *meaningful* way
- ❖ Use *lyrical melodies*
- ❖ Drift into *nostalgia* and *sentimentality*
- ❖ Look for *thresholds* to cross
- ❖ Develop *tensions and clashes* and (maybe) release them
- ❖ *Think of emotions* --- even anger and aggression, as well as mellower ones --- as you play
- ❖ Allow for *impulsive moments*
- ❖ *Choose hammer surfaces* that match your goals

Timing:

- ❖ *Spacious* timing: leave room for the music to speak
- ❖ Play with *rubato*
- ❖ Develop *slow intros and codas*
- ❖ *Slow down the whole tune* to give room for expression
- ❖ Use *arpeggios* for expression and motion
- ❖ Develop *rhythmic sway*

- ❖ *Speed up or slow down* as a new statement is being made

Volume:

- ❖ Swells
- ❖ Dropoffs
- ❖ Crescendos
- ❖ Decrescendos
- ❖ Accented notes
- ❖ Rhythmic accents
- ❖ Volume changes as statements

Pitch:

- ❖ *Key changes*: of a 4th or 5th, 3rd or 6th, 2nd or 7th, minor 3rd, diminished 5th, etc.
- ❖ *Octave changes*
- ❖ *Melody variation*, especially upward
- ❖ *Jumps*

Harmony:

- ❖ Powerful *4-note chord rolls*
- ❖ *Chord changes* for effect: all 6 primary chords, secondary dominants, dominant 7ths, major/minor 7ths, etc.
- ❖ *Melodic fills* as statements
- ❖ Improvisation over *repeated series of chords*
- ❖ *Suspensions* of chords
- ❖ *Walkdowns* on bass bridge
- ❖ *Contrast* of dense and sparse *harmonic texture*
- ❖ Voicings of *harmonic lines* (think counterpoint)