

CSMTA Conference 2017

Session Descriptions

Session 1: *A General Introduction to Chinese Piano Music*

Luxuan (Elly) Wen

This presentation will provide the audience with some excellent samples of Chinese solo piano music within the context of esthetical ideas and the related cultural background. A selection of twelve pieces will be demonstrated and performed, ranging from beginner to formal concert level. One of the intermediate pieces is composed by Elly for pedagogical purposes and the rest are all pieces from traditional and well-known Chinese repertoire and required for piano students in China.

Session 2: *Improv Pedagogy for Beginners*

Joey Lieber

This presentation will focus on improvisation work for beginners using both the black key and white key approaches along with various accompaniments and exercises. Further discussion will include call and response, phrasing coaching, dynamics coaching, chord tone coaching, landing point coaching, as well as how to use pieces and rhythms as a basis for improvisation. Topics will be linked to standard improvisational pedagogy as a pre-jazz curriculum.

Session 3: *Dalcroze: If You Can Move It, You Can Play It*

Aaron Butler

Eurhythmics offers a hands-on approach to music theory through exploration using movement to connect what the ear hears with what the mind knows. Playing the piano confronts us immediately with the prospect of doing two things at once. Dalcroze allows us to shift the focus away from the right-hand / left-hand, to using the whole body to help us feel that "disordination." A series of games physicalizing beat, pattern, and phrase will be presented through stepping, vocalizing, clapping, drawing, and tapping. I always tell my students, "If you can move it, you can play it!"