WHAT IS THE COMMON THREAD THROUGHOUT THE SUZUKI REPERTOIRE THAT CAN BE APPLIED?

Problem: the long sustained note values

Book 1:

Minuets-focus on all long tones

Teaching point: Subdividing with the dotted half notes-breath on beat 3 in a timely fashion to recover the bow and land on beat one on time.

Book 2:

Chorus-the student encounters the same challenge of long tones: dotted half notes with a rest

Teaching point: Review the concept of subdividing the dotted half notes-breath on beat 4 to recover the bow and land on beat one on time.

Book3:

The Bach Minuet returns as well as a piece such as Bach Bouree

Teaching point: By now, the student should have developed the skill of counting the half note and returning to beat 1 in time.

Book 4:

Seitz Concerto no. 5, 1st movement-challenges of the main theme with its rhythmic pulse with the half notes and rest in m. 18.

Teaching point: The student now has experience in counting accurately, returning to the next phrase in time and is able to hear how the accompaniment will fit with the violin part.

Cuing the entrance

Book 1:

Allegro-challenge of leading a ritard, holding a fermata, cuing the next phrase

Teaching point 1: teach the student how to pace the ritard

Play subdivided 8th notes on your instrument to help the student grasp how to slow down in a controlled fashion

Have the pianist subdivide the accompaniment into 8th notes to help with the ritard

Have the pianist play beat 4 in m. 8 to help student hear the lengthened measure

Teaching point 2: the fermata and cue

Teach the student to breathe in the new tempo

Help the student to coordinate the bow with the body

Teach the student how to use their body to cue the downbeat

Work with the student so that the tempo in line 1 and line 3 matches

Book 2:

Witches Dance-the challenge returns in m. 29-31 of the ritard, holding a fermata and cuing

Teaching point 1: review with the student how to pace the ritard

Use Allegro as a review piece to reinforce the concept

Play subdivided 8th notes on your instrument to reinforce how a ritard is paced and controlled

Have the pianist subdivide the chords or play 8th notes to help the student hear the gradually slowing down of the tempo

Teaching point 2: review the fermata and cue

Review the 2nd phrase of Allegro to remind the student how to approach the phrase

Work with the student on how to cue the pianist after the fermata

Review how to breathe in the new tempo

Review how the bow needs to be timed with the body

Book 3:

Humoresque-two spots that challenge the student with the expressive ritard and a ritard with fermata

Teaching point 1: review with the student how to pace the ritard

Use Allegro and Witches Dance as review piece to reinforce the concept

m. 16 is critical that the student knows how the piano accompaniment fits into their solo

Play pulsing 8th notes while your student is playing this phrase so they can hear the subdivision

Have the pianist subdivide the 8th notes into 16ths to help the student hear the pacing

Teaching point 2: fermata with a cue

Review the 2nd phrase of Allegro and m. 29-31 of Witches Dance

Work with the student in Humoresque to pace the ritard

Review how to use the body to cue the pianist

Make sure the student knows how to breathe in the intended tempo

Work with bow control so the student can begin the new phrase with clarity

Book 4:

Seitz Concert no. 5, 1st movement-the skill continues in knowing how to work with the accompanist in changing tempos, cuing pauses and using the body for great ensemble

Teaching point 1: pacing the ritard

Review with the student how to subdivide the beat so ritards are controlled and proportionally appropriate

m. 29 is great place for the student to rehearse with the pianist for perfect ensemble

Teaching point 2: fermata with a cue

Make sure the student knows how to cue comfortably with their bow and body

Check to make sure the student is breathing the cue in the new intended tempo

m. 34 is one place the student can rehearse with the accompanist so the timing of the fermata and next entrance are perfectly timed together

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