



Background

- Anime has become increasingly popular in recent years.
- People started creating piano transcriptions and arrangements of their favourite anime songs.
- One of the most famous arrangers goes by the alias Animenz and his work is popular among younger pianists.
- To date, only two known individuals have done research specifically on Anime Piano Music and Animenz.

Research Question

- How do potential performance practices and considerations associated with Animenz influence the musical engagement of a young adult pianist?

Participant

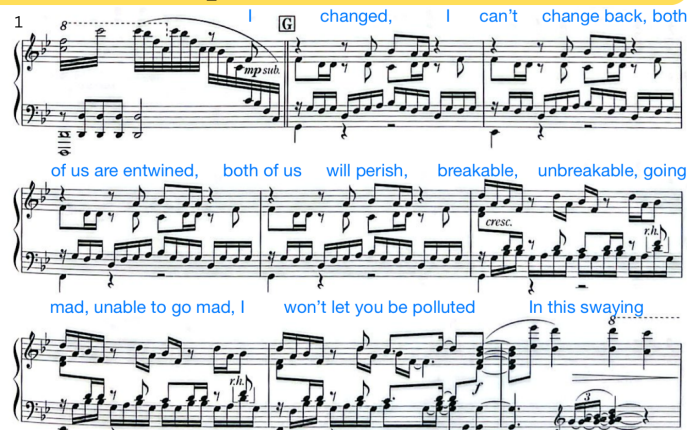
- Currently teaching a piano practicum student who is interested in anime piano music.
- Master in accounting student from York University.
- Interested in playing piano on the side and participating in performance events.
- Had formal piano training but stopped after high school.

Methodology

- The student is learning *Unravel*, which is from the anime, Tokyo Ghoul.
- On a biweekly basis, I introduced several performance practices and considerations.
- Many of the possible performance practices draw from my previous research, classical piano training, influence from anime pianists, creative experimentation, and non-musical elements such as animations, culture, and story-telling.
- Sessions were recorded and reviewed after.

Text Interpretation

- Anime piano music is based on songs with actual lyrics.
- We spent some time discussing the pre-chorus section and the lyrics.
- His playing became more nuanced and emotional. He stated that he wanted to do dynamic waves to mimic the emotional dissonances.



“I thought it was quite **useful**, it makes everything more **substantial**, and especially it has a **storyline**, and **information** about a person's struggle and **inner emotions**... I think it gives me a more **accurate feeling** of the music.” -Yueyu Tao

Visual Elements

- I pointed out how the anime's opening starts in black and white before becoming colourful.
- He produced two different sounds with that detail in mind in the corresponding passage.



“It makes things more **interesting** because when you talk about **visual elements**, there is change, and if I correspond to that change, I will have different colours in my playing... I think that is something that helps me **understand** the piece better.” -Yueyu Tao

Sectionals/Instrumentations

- I asked my student to be more aware of whether the passage he is playing is a guitar or vocalist part as this could impact his playing.
- We were able to explore different touches and approaches to certain passages.



Discussion

- More effective use of our student's imagination and creativity.
- Opportunity for a responsive and student-centred approach to piano pedagogy.
- Taking advantage of the current interest in anime to introduce students to piano education.
- There is the benefit of diversifying piano repertoire and expanding the classical canon.

Conclusion

- Anime piano music can be a viable repertoire choice.
- Opportunity for new and unique performance practices and considerations.
- It is an emerging genre of music within the contemporary period.
- It will likely become even more popular in the upcoming years.

Next Steps

- My next project will explore storytelling through the performance of Studio Ghibli arrangements.
- Will be working with elementary-level pianists.
- I also hope to continue my research on this topic at the doctorate level.

Acknowledgement

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Bibliography

