

From Aesthetic Intention to Perceived Outcome: The Impact of Piano Performance Parameters on Aesthetic Evaluation

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Abstract: This study focuses on the field of piano performance, providing an in-depth exploration of the relationship between aesthetic intention and perceived outcome. It analyzes the impact of performance parameters on aesthetic evaluation, aiming to reveal how these parameters contribute to the formation of aesthetic perception. The research seeks to offer a theoretical reference for piano performance practice and aesthetic assessment, thereby promoting the development and perpetuation of piano art.

Keywords: piano performance; aesthetic intention; perceived outcome; performance parameters; aesthetic evaluation

1. Introduction

As a core form of musical art, the aesthetic evaluation of piano performance is a complex and multifaceted process. It involves both the performer's subjective aesthetic intention and the audience's objective perceived outcome. Performance parameters serve as the bridge connecting aesthetic intention and perceived outcome, playing a crucial role in aesthetic evaluation. From sound shaping and technique application to emotional expression, subtle variations in each performance parameter can elicit different aesthetic experiences in listeners. An in-depth investigation into the influence of piano performance parameters on aesthetic evaluation contributes to a better understanding of the artistic essence of piano performance, enhances performance standards, and enriches aesthetic appreciation.

2. Overview of Aesthetic Intention and Perceived Outcome in Piano Performance

2.1 The Connotation of Aesthetic Intention

Aesthetic intention refers to the artistic pursuit and aesthetic orientation maintained by performers during the execution of a musical work, originating from their comprehension of the composition, mastery of its artistic style, and integration of personal emotion. Performers, drawing upon their own artistic cultivation and aesthetic perspectives, imbue the work with unique interpretation and expression, thereby guiding the selection and adjustment of performance parameters[1]. For instance, when interpreting Romantic works to achieve an aesthetic effect characterized by profound sentiment and unrestrained passion, performers typically make corresponding adjustments in dynamics, tempo, and timbre to convey the work's inherent passion and romantic qualities. Thus, aesthetic intention permeates the entire performance process, serving as the internal driving force for artistic expression.

2.2 The Presentation of Perceived Outcome

Perceived outcome is the aesthetic experience and emotional feedback formed by the audience during the appreciation of a piano performance, reflecting their active interpretation of the musical information. This process is based not only on the audience's respective aesthetic literacy, cultural background, and life experiences but also encompasses a multidimensional assessment of performance technique and artistic expressiveness. For example, trained listeners might focus more on tonal layers and fingering techniques, whereas general audiences are more readily moved by the emotional tension of the melody. Although individual perceptions vary, outstanding performances often transcend different backgrounds, evoking widespread emotional resonance and allowing listeners to naturally immerse themselves in the aesthetic world constructed by the music.

2.3 The Relationship Between Aesthetic Intention and Perceived Outcome

There exists a close intrinsic connection between aesthetic intention and perceived outcome. The performer's aesthetic intention is the premise and foundation of the perceived outcome, determining the direction and style of the performance. The perceived outcome, in turn, serves as feedback and validation of the aesthetic intention. Through audience response, performers can assess whether their performance has achieved the intended aesthetic effect and make adjustments accordingly. In an ideal performance scenario, the performer's aesthetic intention is accurately communicated to the audience, eliciting

corresponding perceived outcomes and realizing the perfect unity of aesthetic intention and perceived outcome.

3. The Influence of Acoustic Aesthetic Parameters on Aesthetic Evaluation

3.1 Tone Color Shaping and Emotional Communication

Tone color, as a crucial acoustic aesthetic parameter in piano performance, directly influences the listener's emotional experience. Different tone colors can convey distinct emotional qualities; for instance, a bright tone often evokes a sense of joy and liveliness, while a somber tone tends to create a melancholy and profound atmosphere. Performers achieve rich variations in tone color through nuanced adjustments of parameters such as touch method and force control. The soft poetry rendered by the gentle touch in Chopin's Nocturnes, or the intense power unleashed by the strong dynamics in Beethoven's Appassionata Sonata, both exemplify the deep alignment between tone color shaping and emotional expression. Thus, appropriate control of tone color is not merely a technical presentation but an artistic pathway for emotional communication.

3.2 Dynamic Variation and Rhythmic Flow

Dynamic variation and rhythmic flow together constitute the dynamic framework of musical expression. Through well-calibrated variations in volume, performers can enhance the music's layers and expressive power—strong volume at climactic points can create dramatic tension, while gentle treatment in lyrical passages easily renders a warm atmosphere[2]. The precise mastery of rhythmic flow not only provides the music with a fundamental sense of pulse but also, through flexible handling, reveals the unique style of the piece. For example, the precisely controlled rhythmic changes in jazz maintain the music's internal pulse while showcasing a distinctive artistic character through free-flowing rhythms, endowing the music with vitality and immediacy. The organic coordination of dynamic variation and rhythmic flow allows emotional expression to unfold naturally, jointly shaping a compelling sonic landscape.

4. The Influence of Technical Aesthetic Parameters on Aesthetic Evaluation

4.1 Fingering Application and Fluidity

Fingering application largely determines the fluidity and musical expression level in piano performance. Through rational fingering design, performers can not only maintain rhythmic evenness and linear coherence in rapid scales and arpeggios but also achieve precise musical expression when handling complex chords and ornaments[3]. Furthermore, different key touch methods elicit rich variations in tonal layers: a gentle touch often creates a hazy tonal quality, while a forceful keystroke can stimulate bright resonance. Therefore, appropriate fingering selection serves not only as the foundation for technical execution but also as a vital artistic pathway for enhancing musical expressiveness.

4.2 Tempo Control and Expressiveness

Tempo control provides essential emotional direction for musical expression, directly influencing both the stylistic characteristics of the work and profoundly shaping the listener's aesthetic experience. Faster performances often create a tense and fervent atmosphere, fully releasing the music's inherent vitality; conversely, slower pacing is more suitable for expressing profound and restrained emotions. Taking the first movement of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata as an example, its protracted and breath-like rhythmic treatment thoroughly conveys the tranquility and sorrow within the work. Additionally, performers must emphasize natural transitions in tempo, using precise rhythmic arrangements to render the emotional expression of the music both clearly layered and naturally flowing, thereby enhancing the work's artistic impact.

5. The Influence of Emotional Aesthetic Parameters on Aesthetic Evaluation

5.1 Emotional Investment and Artistic Impact

Emotional investment serves as the core element for achieving artistic impact in piano performance. This requires performers not only to deeply comprehend the emotional essence of the work but also to translate this understanding into genuine and moving artistic expression. When performers integrate personal emotion with the musical work, their interpretation can directly resonate with the listeners' inner world. The impassioned and grand emotional character found in Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto often achieves its profoundly moving artistic power precisely through the performer's wholehearted emotional engagement. This process of internal-to-external emotional transmission elevates the music beyond mere technical display, transforming it into an aesthetic experience that evokes deep resonance among listeners.

5.2 Stylistic Interpretation and Artistic Quality

Stylistic interpretation represents a crucial dimension in demonstrating the artistic quality of piano performance. Ac-

curate interpretation of musical style presupposes the performer's ability to discern the aesthetic characteristics of works from different periods. Specifically, the rigorous structure and ornate embellishment pursued in Baroque works are typically presented through refined and elegant performance, whereas Romantic compositions place greater emphasis on personalized emotional expression, requiring performers to interpret their poetry and passion with more freedom and exuberance[4]. Precise stylistic understanding and artistic presentation not only enhance the performance's artistic level but also guide listeners toward a deeper appreciation of the unique aesthetic value inherent in musical works from different eras.

6. Conclusion

In summary, within piano performance, aesthetic intention guides the direction of the performance, while the perceived outcome validates its artistic effectiveness. These two elements are intricately connected through parameters encompassing acoustics, technique, and emotion. These parameters act synergistically, collectively shaping the overall aesthetic experience. The diverse aesthetic perceptions of listeners must be fully taken into account to achieve the broad transmission of music's artistic value and to foster the continued development of piano art.

References

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