

Core Principles

1. Technique operates from the center to the periphery (core to back to shoulders to upper arms to forearm to wrist to hand to fingers).
2. Rhythm facilitates the proper coordination of mind and body. The rhythmic solution to a technical problem resolves by fiat the complications that arise from compensation.
3. Compensation occurs when a technique or set of techniques is based upon a fundamental *lack of freedom* (i.e. the ability to choose between a set of differing techniques based upon any given situation).
4. Sight-reading should seek to establish (in tandem) 1) rhythmic vitality 2) phrase-wise flow and 3) the fostering of an accompanying aural image.
5. The aural image is the reflection of the musical pattern, arising spontaneously from the act of playing it. The strengthening of the aural image involves the synthesis or distillation of harmonic/melodic content from underlying structure (blocking), the facilitation of a direct connection with this structure (vocalization), and secondarily, the transfer of this content from symbolic structure to symbolic structure (transposition).
6. Memorization should occur naturally in the context of sight-reading and the formation of the aural image, not separately.
7. When learning music by ear (transcription), rhythm facilitates the harmonic/melodic choices available; the player must work inwards from larger structures to smaller structures by means of blocking and the development of an accurate aural image. The goal is to facilitate a synchronous relationship between what is heard and what is played.