

D.J. WOLF

Dr. WOLF's Complete &
Correct SCHOOL of
PIANO
LEVITATION

Three Etudes for Pianoforte, Two Hands

Etude the 1st: Errors, Eliminated
Etude the 2nd: Knocking About
Etude the 3rd: Catching Butterflies

for Hildegard Kleeb, March 2007

Etude the 1st: Errors, Eliminated

Play a 10-note chord, one tone per finger, starting with hands crossed, the left hand as far to the right as possible, the right hand as far to the left as possible.

Repeat the chord as precisely as possible, listening carefully for any changes in the chord (pitches, dynamics, balance, any arpeggiation).

Repeat the second chord as precisely as possible, incorporating any changes made from the first chord.

Continue to repeat the chord, incorporating any changes made from one chord to the next.

As you repeat, allow gravity and muscles to pull the hands closer together, towards the center of the keyboard, and then, crossing one another, allow each hand to drift, chord-by-chord toward its own end of the keyboard, ending when the hands are as far left and right as possible.

Etude the 2nd: Knocking About

Select a number between one and fifty-three.

Make a list with that number of tones, dyads, chords, or clusters, each playable by the left hand alone.

Silently, press the keys of each tone, dyad, chord, or cluster in succession with the left hand.

After the keys of each tone, dyad, chord, or cluster have been silently pressed, without damaging the instrument, slap or strike (by hand or knuckle, or perhaps with a marimba or vibraphone mallet) the wooden frame, metal harp, soundboard, or body of the piano at various points until that tone, dyad, or chord has achieved maximum resonance.

Then go on to the next tone, dyad, chord, or cluster, proceeding until the list has been exhausted.

Etude the 3rd: Catching Butterflies

Imagine that the piano is actually a large metal net, perfect made for catching sounds. When catching sounds, they are like butterflies: some sounds will fall between the wires, but it's fine to let a few get a way.

Make a list of five to fifteen favorite words.

Holding the sustain pedal down, loudly & clearly speak the first word into the open piano.

Listen carefully to the echo of the word in the piano.

Locate one to ten tones that are resonated by the word, then play these tone together with the keyboard as a chord, possibly imitating the rhythm of the spoken word.

Repeat for each word until the list has been exhausted.