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Poster Session Abstract

“Revealing Intentionality: A New Sequence for Conducting Instruction”

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Conducting texts tend to occupy themselves with cataloging physical gesture, generalizing it to fit a maximum set of circumstances, and exporting it from page to student in order to enable subsequent imitation in similar musical circumstances.

While practical from a mass production perspective, if considering this definition, “*Conducting is musical leadership – aural expectation manifested physically,*” that pedagogical approach seems antithetical to the task.

Where in this process is the development of a strong musical imagination that guides physical intention? How is conducting effective if predicated upon mapping generalized external behaviors onto specific musical circumstances? Should we not instead train our students how to resonate physically with their specific musical intention, their aural expectation?

This paper introduces a new sequence for instruction that grapples effectively with this task: promoting musical integrity by developing gestural specificity based upon a compelling aural image and expectation on the part of the conductor.