

The Birth of Piano Technique Through Piano Repertoire

Highlighting historical events that led to the need of technique refinement in pianism. Etudes by A. Reicha will be performed, explaining their innovation in piano pedagogy, displaying their mark on composers of the 19th century.

Description:

Three historical events drove the development of piano technique, pedagogy and repertoire forward: first, invention and evolution of piano; second, shifts in social dynamics and the rise of the amateur musician; third, the increasing technical difficulty in piano repertoire. As a result of these three progressions, piano became so popular that the need for pedagogical aids on what and how to teach technique was needed. Thus, some pedagogue-composers initiated the process of writing the very first sets of piano etudes and exercises, establishing some of the very first pedagogical tools in developing piano technique.

In this lecture I will focus on the historical events that led to the need of teaching and refinement of piano technique. I will perform several of the very first piano etudes by A. Reicha explaining their importance and innovation in the field of piano pedagogy. Moreover, I will draw connections and parallels between Reicha's etudes and other works by the composers of the 19th century, showcasing the impact that these unknown etudes had in the 18th and 19th centuries.