



INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP FOR PIANIST

Roberto Prosseda

- ▶ Expression and interpretation of music
- ▶ Natural principles of piano technique
- ▶ Fundamental teaching method for piano:
for an effective and natural approach
to studying the piano

The **interactive workshop for pianists** by **Roberto Prosseda** is intended for all pianists wishing to further develop their piano technique and culture, perhaps with a view to a career in teaching or as a concert performer, and who wish to develop greater awareness of how to make music on a piano.

The workshop consists of three modules, which can also be attended separately.

MODULE 1: Expression and interpretation of music

MODULE 2: Natural principles of piano technique

MODULE 3: Fundamental teaching method for piano: for an effective and natural approach to studying the piano

"In developing this new teaching project I had in mind any pianist (they may be students, or already have a career as a concert performer or teacher) who wants to focus on the basic principles that underlie interpretation of music and how these can then be expressed through the piano," explains Maestro Prosseda. "People often talk about "technique" and "interpretation" as if they were two distinct and independent elements, that you "put together" after you've studied a piece. Whereas I see them as two inseparable factors in making music. This is why I begin the course by defining the interpretive project - without which study of the technical parts would just be a sterile exercise - and then follow that by demonstrating on the piano how this project can be actualised. So we will concentrate on identifying the principles at the basis of musical expression (first module), while discovering how they can be conveyed through the pianist's execution, with the aim of acquiring a natural and aware piano technique, and of improving control of the technical skills that will give us command of expression and rhetoric in playing (second module). Finally, we will turn our attention to some learning techniques (from the first reading of a score, to the strategies for preparing for a concert or for a competition), in order to succeed in getting the maximum benefit from the time that we dedicate every day to piano practice, and ultimately to be able to approach each performance opportunity with greater awareness and serenity.

This course, particularly if followed in its entirety, can offer effective solutions to the problems that pianists often encounter on their study path. The objective is also to give these pianists the didactic tools that will enable them to teach music through the piano in a way that is natural, clear and aware.

Each module is held over 2 months and consists of:

- Six meetings online of two hours each. The lessons will be recorded on video and will be available to students.
- Intensive 12-hour workshop in person, held at the Accademia di Musica, where Prosseda will accompany his teaching with frequent demonstrations on the piano and the students will have the opportunity to put into practice the principles they have learnt.
- One hour of individual guidance.
- Online sharing of materials distributed, video recordings of demonstrations, and scores.



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MODULE 1

EXPRESSION AND INTERPRETATION OF MUSIC



What are the principles of the music that are the basis of interpretation?

How can you develop your own personal reading of a piece, starting with an informed initial reading of the composition?

How can your performance be personal, while at the same time respecting the instructions given by the composer?

These are questions that all musicians ask themselves in their daily work. But they rarely find an answer that satisfies them.

There is a commonly-held belief that interpretation is a completely inexplicable phenomenon, springing from the musical intuition and instincts of each individual musician, the “inspiration” of legend. Yet great professional pianists know very well that you can only arrive at a vision of music that is personal and satisfying through long, deep study of the semantic processes of the music and of the principles that underlie the structure of any composition.

In this course students will learn an approach to the reading of musical texts that is scientific and deeply analytical. This approach is based on the physical principles that inform music, as well as on historical documentation that allows an historically informed and contextualised reading of musical notation, from the 18th century to the present day.

MODULE 2

NATURAL PRINCIPLES OF PIANO TECHNIQUE



How can you regulate your hand and arm movements to give you a sound that is richer and more varied?

How can you avoid errors, and render your execution more fluid and natural?

How can you manage the weight of the arm in legato and in the various dynamics of playing?

The course is intended for all pianists and teachers of piano who wish to learn more about the basic principles of piano technique, in order to develop greater awareness in their execution at the piano and in teaching piano.

The course will explain some concepts that are often misunderstood: for example, how to use weight, relaxation, the action of the muscles, and the effect of all these factors on the sound produced by the piano. We will study different strategies for positioning the hand on the keyboard, depending on the effects of timbre and expression that the pianist is aiming for, and strategies for the choice of fingering and of hand set up.

Following the fundamental principles mentioned above, students will study the basic elements of the pianist's technique (scales, arpeggios, trills, etc), all of which the maestro will demonstrate on the piano. The final stage of the lessons will focus on control of the dynamics of the music, and of the timbre, and on the creation of a palette of colours for piano performance, again amply demonstrated on the piano.

MODULE 3

FUNDAMENTALS OF PIANO TEACHING: AN EFFECTIVE AND NATURAL METHOD FOR STUDYING



How can you make your practice sessions effective and rewarding?

How can you speed up your reading of a new piece, immediately identifying the key elements?

How do you prepare for a concert and solve the problem of performance anxiety?

This course is aimed at teachers of piano who wish to expand their knowledge of the learning processes involved in keyboard playing.

The goal is to enable teachers to “teach their students how to study”, so that every student can get the maximum benefit from their daily practice, developing greater awareness in their reading of the text and in learning the automatic movements required to achieve complete mastery of the instrument and of execution of pieces.