

**THE MUSICIAN'S CHALLENGE:
MERGING STRUCTURE AND EMOTION IN
PERFORMANCE**

By

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Abstract

This document aims to meet the performer's challenge: How can the performer merge her emotional understanding of the score with her structural understanding of it? This document reexamines the connection between emotions and music, between emotions and musical structure and the importance of both to one's performance.

Chapter 1 presents some new perspectives on the definition, workings and importance of emotions in human life. It also explores the origins of music and its evolution from early-human communication systems.

Chapter 2, a survey of some of the important theories on the subject of music and the emotions; it contrasts previous existing theories with recent research data.

Chapter 3 examines the concert hall variables and processes that take place during a performance by using the basic principles of network science.

Chapter 4 presents the reader with the Emotional Understanding Method, designed to assist the performer in realizing the emotional content of a piece and to suggest practice techniques to help her connect to it under performance pressures.

Chapter 5 examines ways of meeting the performer's challenge, and merging the performer's structural with her emotional understanding of the score.

Autobiographical Note

Since making his debut with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under Zubin Mehta, thirty one year old pianist Eliran Avni has performed throughout Europe, South-America and the United States. He has made numerous recordings for both Israeli and German broadcasting systems and has appeared as a special guest on Israeli television with the Israel Philharmonic.

Born in Israel, Eliran began his musical training at the Tel Aviv Academy of Music studying with Marina Bondarenko. In Israel, he won first prize in both the Clairmont and Rachmaninoff Competitions and has been an annual scholarship recipient of the Israel-America Cultural Foundation since 1989. He served in the Israeli Defense Forces under the special status of “distinguished musician.”

A champion of chamber music, Eliran has collaborated with great artists such as Yehuda Hanani, Yehonatan Berick, Jennifer Aylmer, William Sharp and actors Sigourney Weaver and Richard Chamberlain, and has been the featured pianist of both the Hindemith and Brahms Festivals in Germany. Trained by The Young Musician Unit at the Jerusalem Music center, Eliran has studied under Issac Stern, Yo Yo Ma and Maria Curcio.

Eliran received both his BM and MM degrees while studying with Dr. Yoheved Kaplinsky at The Juilliard School. Currently, he is working toward his DMA degree as a student of both Dr. Kaplinsky and Jerome Lowenthal. In September of 2006, Eliran recorded the complete piano works of the renowned Israeli composer Avner Dorman at Tanglewood’s Ozawa Hall. The recording was produced by Grammy™ Award Winning Producer David Frost, and was released May 2006 on the Naxos label.

Psalms 119: 99: *"From all those who have taught me I became wise..."*

"מכל מלמדי השכלתי... " תהילים קיט, צט

And To Marcus A.

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