ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE PRACTICE THROUGH COMPARISON OF MULTIPLE RECORDINGS: THE SONATA NO.1 IN C (OP.1) BY JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833-1897)

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DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER IN PERFORMING ARTS (MUSIC)

CULTURAL CENTRE
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ORIGINAL LITERARY WORK DECLARATION

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Field of Study: COMPOSITION

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation analyzes temporal deviations across for performance by different pianists' of the Sonata No.1 in C by Johannes Brahms, in order to posit inferences of emotional expression. The timing deviations were analysed using Audacity, then collated in Microsoft Excel 2010. The results were placed within two-dimensional graphs to show timing variations relative to the sections of Sonata form: Exposition, Development, Recapitulation and Coda. The timings were arranged according to the standard deviation (SDs) from the group mean of (495.705 ± 55.794) seconds, ranging from 418.230 seconds to 615.799 seconds. Interestingly, the lowest timing (fastest performance) was well over a minute faster than the mean and the highest timing (slowest performance) was over one and a half minutes from the mean. Grouping performances by similarities or differences within the 1SD , 2 SDs and beyond were useful guides to performing time in pianists. Inferences regarding a relation between timing and emotion were achieved through derivation in the standard deviation index (SDI) which is an analogue of emotional index (EI) through the variable of *Time*. Systematic treatment to emotion contours identified in excerpts from the 2nd themes in various sections were quantified in (EI) for contours should they contain significant structure signalling emotional features of music graded as levels of expression (EI) in undulating tension relaxation relationships.

ABSTRAK

Dissertasi ini menganalisa perubahan “pelbagai pemusik temporal” di antara piano dalam persembahan Sonata No.1 dalam C olahan komposisi Johannes Brahms. Perubahan “temporal”secara tidak langsung digunakan untuk membuat inferensi terhadap ekspresi emosi. Perhitungan “temporal” dalam istilah biasa iaitu pengiraan masa dianalisa menggunakan teknologi rakaman perkomputeran melalui perisian “Audacity”. Data yang terkumpul diproses menggunakan statistik “Microsoft Excel 2010”. Keputusan berbentuk geraf dua–dimensi menunjukkan variasi masa antara 10 pemusik piano mengikut klassifikasi musik Sonata:”Exposition, Development, Recapitulation dan Coda”. Data disusun dalam urutan menaik mengikut perubahan piawai (SD) dari purata sebanyak (495.705 ± 55.794) saat. Persembahan dengan rakaman masa yang terendah sekali, 418.230 saat (tercepat) adalah kurang seminit daripada purata dan persembahan yang terpanjang sekali iaitu 615.799 saat melebihi purata ini sebanyak satu setengah minit. Penyusunan data mengikut persamaan dan perbezaan dalam urutan 1SD, 2SD memudahkan analisa perbandingan antara rakaman pelbagai pemain piano. Inferensi melalui perhubungan antara masa dan emosi dikira dari analog index perubahan piawai (SDI) iaitu Index Emosi (EI) menggunakan variabel masa . Kaedah Musikologi Sistematik memudahkan kuantifikasi kontor emosi di mana gradiasi pelbagai struktur musik emosi dalam thema kedua (2^{nd} themes) Sonata ini menyerlah dari segi keterampilannya dalam ombak gabungan tensi-relaksi.

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