Kobe College Graduate School of Music Entrance Examination
Master's Program in Music

October 18, 2023

Music, an ancient form of human expression, transcends the boundaries of language and culture. It is a universal language that speaks directly to the human soul. Musical performance is one of the most important forms of artistic expression. This essay investigates the many meanings of performing music, exploring its role as a form of self-expression, a channel for human connection, and a tool to use for personal growth. Through a combination of technical proficiency, emotional depth, and interpretive artistry; a musician's goal is to play music that extends beyond just the musical notes aiming to express spiritual and emotional elements of the soul of the performer.

[A] Performing music is an act of self-revelation, where the artist communicates their innermost thoughts and emotions through the medium of sound. It provides a unique platform for individuals to express their personal stories, perspectives, and artistic voice. Each note, each phrase, becomes a brushstroke on the canvas of human experience. Through careful attention to dynamics, articulation, and interpretation, performers breathe life into the score, creating a real connection between the music and the audience.

[B] Music possesses a remarkable ability to evoke emotions in both the performer and the listener. When a musician performs with sincerity and authenticity, the music transcends its physical form, becoming a vessel for shared feelings. This shared emotional experience creates a profound connection between the performer and the audience, bridging gaps of language, culture, and background. It is through this emotional resonance that music becomes a powerful force in fostering human connection and understanding.

[C] (1) Achieving technical mastery is a critical aspect of performing music. It requires years of disciplined practice, preparing one's skills to a level of precision that allows for seamless execution. However, technical proficiency is not an end in itself; rather, it serves as the foundation upon which artistic expression is built. It provides the means to express complex emotions and ideas with clarity and precision, allowing the performer to fully understand the music and communicate its essence to the audience.

[D] Performing music is not just playing or singing the notes on a page; it is a process of interpretation and creative expression. Each performer brings their unique perspective, informed by their experiences and sensibilities, to a piece of music. This interpretation breathes life into the composition, giving it a distinctive character and flavor. Through creative choices in tempo, phrasing,

and dynamics, a performer leaves a unique mark on a piece, infusing it with their artistic fingerprint.

[E] (2) For many musicians, the act of performing is a journey of self-discovery and personal growth. It demands resilience, discipline, and a willingness to confront challenges and setbacks. Through this journey, musicians not only refine their technical skills but also expand their capacity for emotional expression and empathy. They learn to navigate the intricacies of human emotion, honing their ability to convey the depths of the human experience through their music.

Performing music is a transformative endeavor that offers musicians a means of self-expression, a bridge to connect with others, and a path to personal growth. These points prove that music is a very powerful tool that can transcend linguistic and cultural barriers by resonating deeply with the human spirit. As performers use their hearts and souls to express their music, they create an enduring legacy that transcends time and space, leaving a vital mark on the history of mankind.

（1） 下線（1）を和訳しなさい。(15 点)

（2） 下線（2）を和訳しなさい。(15 点)

（3） [A]から[E]の各段落の見出しとして最も相応しいものを、a から e の中からそれぞれ選びなさい。(各 5 点)

a. Technical Proficiency as the Foundation:

b. Personal Growth and Fulfillment:

c. Emotional Resonance and Human Connection:

d. Self-Expression through Music:

e. Interpretation and Creative Expression:

（4） この文章の最も適した英語タイトルを考え英語で記しなさい。その後それに即した形で文章全体を250字前後の日本語で要約しなさい。(45点)