



Zhongxi Lin, Doctoral Research in Collaborative Piano

Title:

Exploring the Evolving Role of the Collaborative Pianist: A Case Study of Amy Beach's Romance for Violin and Piano and Three Browning Songs

Abstract:

The modern landscape of ensemble music highlights an essential transformation in the role of the collaborative pianist, from supportive accompanist to equal musical partner. This shift emphasizes the growing demand for pianists to develop not only technical proficiency but also sophisticated interpersonal and interpretive skills within collaborative contexts.

This doctoral research investigates the internal dynamics of collaborative piano through the lens of Amy Beach's *Romance for Violin and Piano* and *Three Browning Songs*. Combining theoretical inquiry with performance analysis, the study employs Deb Mashek's *Four Progressive Modes of Partnership* and Martin Katz's *Three Breathing Types* to create a dual framework for understanding collaboration in music performance. These models help categorize the evolving degrees of artistic partnership and breathing synchronization between pianist and co-performer.

The presentation will provide an overview of the historical evolution of the collaborative piano field, followed by a detailed discussion of Beach's compositions as case studies. Through interpretive analysis and reflective practice, the study identifies the ways in which collaborative pianists negotiate musical agency, phrasing, and interpretive alignment with their partners.

The research also reflects on the pedagogical and professional implications of collaborative piano as a distinct and vital specialization. Findings underscore the importance of integrating collaborative skill-building into higher music education and advocate for greater institutional recognition of this field's artistic and academic value.

Keywords:

Collaborative Piano, Ensemble Performance, Musical Partnership, Amy Beach, Pianist Role, Music Pedagogy, Interpretive Analysis
