

Developing a Voice.

Technical virtuosity is not a style. Higher, faster and louder is not the same as style.

Do not attempt to be everything to everybody.

Can you determine what the embryonic essences of your style are?

Let each repertoire piece be an invitation to the edge of something new. Let your choices be guided by the desire to shed your old musical skin and reach beyond what you have done before.

Expand your horizons without throwing away the best of your history. Let go of the superfluous. Avoid getting in the rut of musical naval gazing and self-caricature.

You need to know where you are before good choices can be made regarding where you want to go.

Ask yourself what you do to develop and nurture the unique and successful dimensions of your style.

What are the strengths and weaknesses in your playing?

Seek substance. Strive to make improvisation sound like a liquid composition.

Do not rely on emotion all the time, if overdone it can become like a weak melodrama.

Without the sustaining wood of forethought and wisdom, emotion alone can burn itself out like kindling.

Avoid 'gratuitous' blowing. Do you monitor yourself? What ideas govern your intentions?

What you listen to is the rich earth from which your style grows. No new seed of great music ever took root in silence.