

Music and Technology: Humans Win!

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音樂與科技 — 人類萬歲！

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In today's digital world, technology has taken over our lives in a multitude of ways, some of which was previously unimaginable. But the study of classical music remains firmly a part of our heritage and culture.

Composers such as JS Bach, Handel, and Scarlatti, whose music we still learn and play today, were born some 300 years ago. The keyboard at that time was the harpsichord and the early piano. Now, benefitting from technological advances through the centuries, we now play on a modern piano that is capable of producing far more powerful sound and a much wider range of tones and dynamics.

今天我們身處在二十一世紀的數碼年代，科技已經超乎想像地融入日常生活。話雖如此，學習古典音樂卻從不過時，更在傳統文化中歷久常新。

Time and Technology

In the 18th and 19th centuries and into the 20th century, music enthusiasts would get together to read a symphony, playing it four-hands on the piano. Today, we can watch a performance of just about any work at the click of a button on your smartphone.

Surely then, computers and robots alike must be sophisticated enough to perform this seemingly simple task of reading and playing music. Indeed, there is a handful of software out there that are capable of executing these musical commands flawlessly. Why, then, are robots not yet driving musicians out of business?

The Human Advantage

That is because we, humans, have the cognitive ability to interpret music. The possibilities of interpretation are infinite on any given piece of music. The beauty of it is that there can be more than one gratifying rendition of a given piece, or more than pleasing solutions to a given problem.

Sometimes, our job as musicians is not only to interpret what is on the score but also what is not there. Once we go deeper into the music, we can discover what is behind the notes and really make the piece come alive.

The New Piano Exams

I am delighted to host the new series of *Piano Exams*, where I will share my thoughts on the interpretation of music on the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music syllabus, 2015-2016. Tune in, and put on your musical thinking hat together with me!

時代與科技

今天演奏巴赫、韓德爾和史格拉第等作品的大有人在，但這些都是在三百多年前出生的作曲家。當時，流行的鍵盤樂器仍是古鍵琴，經過數個世紀的發展和改良後，現代鋼琴已能產生更響亮的琴音和更多變的音色。以前，音樂愛好者若要在音樂會以外研讀某首交響曲，便只好聚在一起，在鋼琴上四手聯彈；今天，我們只需輕輕一按智能電話，便能觀賞到無數交響曲的演出片段。既然科技如此先進，要用電腦來閱讀樂譜或彈奏音樂，已是易如反掌的事，但為何機械樂手仍未能取代真人樂師的地位？

我們的優勢

那是因為人類獨有詮釋音樂的能力。每段樂章都有無限的解讀方法，由我來分析一首巴赫的樂曲，大概會與另一位來自不同年代和文化背景的鋼琴家所處理的略有不同。但演奏音樂的奇妙之處，正正在於一首樂曲可以有不止一個令人愜意的詮釋，而同一道問題往往也有多於一個賞心悅目的解答。

很多時候，樂師的任務不單要分析樂譜上的指示，更要解讀不在樂譜上的東西。我們捧著樂譜鑽研下去，就像把洋蔥一層一層地剝開，去探研音符背後的意境，並賦予樂章真正的生命。我堅信，不管科技發展如何瞬息萬變，未來如何日新月異、不可思議，音樂家將繼續於社會佔有不可或缺的地位。藉著音樂，我們的生命會變得更美。

全新「鋼琴考試講座」

我很高興在第四台主持新一輯「鋼琴考試講座」，與聽眾分享我的音樂分析，特別是對2015-2016年度英國皇家音樂學院鋼琴考試自選樂曲的看法。約定你準時收聽！

▼ The presenter and pianist at work 李偉安在錄音室同時兼任主持和鋼琴示範

