BASICS OF CONDUCTING

Bert Appermont

1) Movement
- Body and shoulders relaxed
- Small opening between the legs
- Swinging with the right arm => pulse (like a clock)
- Elbow stays almost motionless

2) Meters

2/4

3/4

4/4

3) Downbeat and upbeat

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

6. 

7. 

8. 
4) Tempo Changes

⇒ Look for the relation between the two tempo’s

\[ \text{Tempo 1: } \frac{3}{4} \text{ quarter notes } \]
\[ \text{Tempo 2: } \frac{3}{4} \text{ quarter notes } \]

1. **Adagio** \( \frac{3}{4} \) (2nd time \( \frac{3}{4} \))
   - Conductor's stops:
   - Conductor's caesura:

2. **Allegro** \( \frac{3}{4} \)
   - Conductor's stops:
   - Conductor's caesura:

5) Fermata

1. Conduct with stop
2. Conduct with caesura

3. Conduct fermata followed by a rest (without and with tempo change)
6) Ternary Meters

- The curves are similar than (2)
- The swing movements are bigger (always with pulsation)
- Practice 6/8, 9/8 and 12/8

7) Conducting musical character

a. Legato: use a more indirect and “wider” curve
b. Staccato / leggiero: use the wrist and the top of the baguette), small movement
c. Marcato => give an accent by making the pulsation more active
   => use the elbows (width) to create space in the sound

\[
\begin{align*}
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\text{f} &= \text{big gesture} \\
\text{p} &= \text{small gesture} \\
\text{mf} &= \text{normal gesture} \\
\text{fp} &= \text{give an accentuation and suddenly pull back}
\end{align*}
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\]

8) Conducting dynamics

\[
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\]
9) Irregular meters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5/8</th>
<th>7/8 + 8/8</th>
<th>10/8 + 11/8</th>
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10) Meter changes

Exercises: Conduct the following meters

1. 3/4 + 2/4 and 4/4 + 3/4
2. 6/8 + 3/4 and 6/8 + 2/4
3. 9/8 + 3/4 and 9/8 + 2/4
4. 9/8 + 3/4 and 9/8 + 2/4
5. 7/8 (2+2+3) + 5/8 (3+2) and 7/8 (2+2+3) + 6/8

11) Using the left hand

- to indicate the start of one instrument or instrumental group
- to indicate a musical idea: conduct a crescendo or diminuendo; conduct the phrase; point out an accentuation;

Exercise 1: conduct 4/4 in the R.H., give a starting signal with the right hand on the 4 different beats

Exercise 2: conduct 4/4 in the R.H., conduct one bar crescendo and one bar dim. in the L.H.

Exercise 3: conduct the phrase of one of the scores (L.H.) while beating the time signature with the R.H.

12) Independence of the hands

Exercise 1: Read a text loud while you conduct
- 2/4 or 3/4 or 4/4
- 2/4 + 3/4 or 4/4 + 3/4

Exercise 2: Make a big circle with your L.H. while you conduct 2/4 or ¾ or 4/4 in your R.H.