Svetlana Rudenko

Lecture Recital
Imagery in Piano Pedagogy: Images of childhood in Gubaidulina’s Musical Toys

Wednesday 26 March 2014 at 1 pm
Royal Irish Academy of Music
Recital Hall
36-38 Westland Row, Dublin 2
Overview

• Music Perception: cross modal processing
• Gubaidulina
• Cultivating a Synesthetical approach in the learning process, communication through Images.
• **Synesthesia** (ancient Greek [syn], ‘together’, and [aisthesis], ‘sensation’) is a neurological phenomenon in which stimulation of one sensory or cognitive pathway leads to automatic, involuntary experiences in a second sensory or cognitive pathway.

• People Who Feel, Taste and Hear Color…

• Are we all born as synesthetes…? Infants synesthesia.
Sofia Gubaidulina
(24 Oct. 1931/ Chistopol, Tatar ASSR)
Soviet Avant-Garde Composer
Together with Schnittke, Denisov and Silvestrov she is now regarded worldwide as one of the leading representatives of New Music.
“In the first instance, perhaps on a walk, I hear a huge, shapeless, multi-faceted sound, absolutely fascinating, with everything piled up together in a way you could never notate - something which exists outside time. It’s like a present, and I consider it a duty to transform it from vertical to horizontal” Sofia Gubaidulina
Fish’s Night Song
“I often thought of my childhood and of the lack, in those days, of piano pieces that were able to take one back into the highly imaginative world of toys. At that time I also looked upon toys as material from which I could elicit sounds; they were part of the world of my musical sensations. With this collection, I have paid a late tribute to my childhood” S.G.
• Children’s cycle *Musical Toys* - synesthetical perception.

• The texture of Gubaidulina’s pieces stimulates visual/auditory/tactile images in the imaginations of children.
1. Mechanical Accordion

Images:
1. *mf* Mechanical Accordion
2. *mp* Voice / whistle
2. Magic Roundabout

Images:

1. *mp* Magic Roundabout
2. *f* Spell
3. The Trumpet In The Forest

Images:
1. \(f\) Trumpet
2. \(p\) "Shadows" of the Forest
4. The Magic Smith

Images: 1. $f$ Hammering of the Blacksmith
2. $p$ Magic Spell
3. $ff$ White Magic
5. April Day

Images: Two-part Invention
1. Subject
2. Counterpoint
6. Song Of The Fisherman

Images: 1. Song of the Fisherman
2. Water Reflections / ripples
   (perfect fifths)
8. A Bear Playing The Double Bass And The Black Woman

Images:

1. A Bear Playing the Double Bass
2. Black Woman Humming
3. Piano Chords
9. The Woodpecker

Images: 1. ‘Darkness’ of the Forest
2. Woodpecker
3. Small Bird
11. Sleigh With Little Bells

Images:
1. Little Bells
2. “Road” / Sleigh
3. Song of the Bells
Conclusions

- It could enhance musical imagination (and therefore learning) of a child if we find ways to stimulate the voluntary synesthetical senses as they will boost the involuntary senses.

- “Synesthesia causes excess communication amongst brain maps…. Depending on where and how widely in the brain the trait was expressed, it could lead to both synaesthesia and to a propensity toward linking seemingly unrelated concepts and ideas - in short, creativity.” (Ramachandran and Hubbard, *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 2001)

- We can all refresh our synesthetical potential
13. The Drummer

14. Forest Musician