

Free Introductory Evening (optional) on Thursday, February 25.

19:30 – 21:30 **Free Presentation of the film, THE CRAFT OF PIANO PLAYING**

Alan Fraser will talk about the background of the film, how one can best learn the techniques shown in the film, and answer your questions. All members of the public are welcome.

Friday Evening (26.2.2010)

19 – 20 Group Class: **THE ARCHES OF THE HAND AND LEARNING LEGATO**

20 – 22 Master Class Piano Lessons

Saturday (27.2.2010)

9-10 Group *Awareness Through Movement* Lesson

10 – 11 Group Class: **THE SPECIAL CASE OF OUR WEIRD AND WONDERFUL THUMB**

11 – 13 Master Class Piano Lessons

13 – 14 LUNCH

14 – 15 Group Class: **CREATIVE PRACTICE TECHNIQUES: INTEGRATE “CRAFT OF PIANO” INTO YOUR PLAYING BY IMPROVISING YOUR INDIVIDUAL EXERCISES (presented by Prof. Jens Schlichting)**

15 – 17 Master Class Piano Lessons

17 – 18 Group *Awareness Through Movement* Lesson

Sunday (28.2.2010)

9-10 Group *Awareness Through Movement* Lesson

10 – 11 Group Class: **OCTAVES & CHORDS, THE ARM, ROTATION**

11 – 13 Master Class Piano Lessons

13 – 14 LUNCH

14 – 15 Group Class: **PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER – MAXIMAL FINGER ARTICULATION**

15 – 16 Master Class Piano Lesson and closing

Canadian pianist **ALAN FRASER** has created a new approach to piano technique that accesses the innate structure and function of the human hand to replace tension and over-relaxation with effective hand activation. His book and DVD, *The Craft of Piano Playing*, presents this new approach in detail, with an extensive series of exercise to align one's skeleton, enrich one's sound, increase virtuosity, and eliminate the danger of injury before it ever arises.

His book **THE CRAFT OF PIANO PLAYING** presents an original approach to piano technique with a fascinating series of exercises designed to help the reader put this approach into practice. Alan Fraser has combined his extensive concert and pedagogical experience, his long-standing collaboration with the virtuoso Kemal Gekich, and his professional training in the Feldenkrais Method to create this innovative technique.

Drawing on examples from the classical repertoire, the movement exercises presented serve to enrich the pianist's kinesthetic self-image and educate the “pianistic reflexes”, activating as-yet untapped functions of the human piano playing mechanism. The exercises provide a new way of perceiving and manipulating the skeleton of the pianist's hand to produce improved digital dexterity and tonal variety, greater power without harshness, heightened sensitivity and discrimination without weakness. They show how many of our common movement habits at the keyboard can become counterproductive, and provide a new way of manipulating the skeletal frame of the hand to produce astonishing sonic results from the instrument. Later on, further exercises integrate this physical approach with musical and performance issues.

Designed to help both students who need remedial work in basic strength at the keyboard and those seeking a new dimension of musical and pianistic understanding, *The Craft of Piano Playing* suggests that improved physical ability can free musical individuality to express itself more fully. This approach to piano technique can also serve as an effective antidote for debilitating performance anxiety, increasing one's emotional security by providing the physical and musical basis for it. By filling in a missing link between intention and physical execution, this book truly aims to advance the “craft of piano playing”.

Based on his book of the same name, Fraser's DVD **THE CRAFT OF PIANO PLAYING** uses recent advances in biomechanics to replace both tension and over-relaxation with effective hand activation based on optimal skeletal alignment.

"a fascinating DVD, a 'must have' for any pianist wishing to master their technique."

(La Lettre du Musicien, France)

The film promises pianists from beginners to professionals an astonishing enhancement of the colours and sonority one can draw from the instrument, and offers teachers new, effective solutions for their students' most common technical problems.

'a guaranteed huge improvement to your piano sound'

(PianoNews, Germany)

Fraser links musical expression to the hand's innate structure and function to create an absolutely natural way of moving at the piano, both powerful and flexible.

WORKSHOP DETAILS:

Full participation ("Active"): 230 Euros, 170 Euros for students and pupils. Registration limited to 12 active participants. Each active participant receives one 45-minute repertoire lesson with Prof. Fraser in public. In addition, all participants will get mini-coaching sessions from Prof. Fraser in each of the group class segments.

Passive participation: 100 Euros, 70 Euros for students and pupils. Registration limited to 16 passive participants.

Workshop given in English, with translation to German provided where necessary.

Please transfer the registration fee of 70 € to the bank account with the number

IBAN: DE98 6705 0505 0073 0512 66 **SWIFT/BIC:** MANSDE66XXX

The remaining amount will be payed in cash at the beginning of the workshop.

BOOK YOUR EXTRA PRIVATE LESSON:

Prof. Fraser will be available for additional private lessons Friday during the day, Sunday evening and the following Monday, at additional cost of 80 € / 60 Min. (Students/Pupils 60 €)

Private Feldenkrais *Functional Integration* lessons with Janet Kay will also be available, also at additional cost (50 €/ 60Min.). Please contact the organizer to book these lessons. (Students/Pupils 40 €)

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REGISTRATION

Name

Address

Phone

e-mail

Active Passive

Student/Pupil

Infos, Repertoire, Questions

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I need Information about hotels nearby

I am interested in additional piano lessons

I am interested in additional Feldenkrais lessons

Please send this registration to:

Klavierstudio Hirschberg - Jens Schlichting - Siebenbürgerhof 6 - 69493 Hirschberg - Germany

For more Information write to info@klavier-kurse.de or call 0049-6201-509424

Alan Fraser

3 Day Workshop & Masterclass

Klavierstudio Hirschberg
Germany

February 26 – 28, 2010



PUTTING THE THEMES OF
“THE CRAFT OF PIANO PLAYING”
INTO PRACTICE:

**HOW TO LEARN THE TECHNIQUES SHOWN IN THE
FILM AND TEACH THEM TO YOUR STUDENTS**