Music Subject Masterclass  
Saturday 26 June 2021  
Preparatory Materials for Attendees  
‘Performance Studies: Some First Impressions’

Ahead of attending the Subject Masterclass, please watch the video of the short Lecture (26mins) on Performance Studies, given by Pierre Riley: [https://youtu.be/Fe3z5avixAE](https://youtu.be/Fe3z5avixAE)

Once you’ve watched the video, think about the following questions, which we will then discuss during the live session (once again, there are no right or wrong answers!):

1. Which of these would you consider to be a performance and why?
   a. A song recital in a concert hall.
   b. A sports team singing the national anthem or a congregation singing a hymn.
   c. Someone walking across the stage in an empty theatre.
   d. Playing a recording to your friends.
   e. Making a cup of tea.
   f. A composite video by a physically distanced ensemble.

2. The lecture explores a few reasons why there is no single right way to perform a piece of music. Is there a wrong way to perform a piece of music?

3. To what extent is this, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kO4UnHltjzw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kO4UnHltjzw), a musical work? Does it have a performer/composer/librettist?

4. Listen to these two recordings (I recommend you so do in this order!):
   [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2CAzmwG0Rw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2CAzmwG0Rw)
   [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ByLvd1HoCac](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ByLvd1HoCac)
   How are they similar? How are they different? What is each trying to achieve? What do you consider is successful about each of them?

**Further activities (these are optional, and don’t need to be completed before the Masterclass):**

Here’s the playlist for recordings featured in the Lecture if you would like to listen to the full pieces.

   a) Bach, Suite for Flute and Strings in B minor BWV 1067; Conductor, Hamilton Harty; Flute, Robert Murchie; recorded 1924: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7BLTbZxcFGI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7BLTbZxcFGI)
   b) Bach, B Minor Mass, first recording, 1929; conductor Albert Coates: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YEAXOZVCK0U&list=PLYvqytV6LOeDpTcPKgZg7PP-v5a8Pici4&index=3](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YEAXOZVCK0U&list=PLYvqytV6LOeDpTcPKgZg7PP-v5a8Pici4&index=3)
   c) Bach, Fugue No. 1 in C Major from The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 1, performed by Harriet Cohen (1929): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyY-71Yh3Ak](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyY-71Yh3Ak)
   d) Bach, Prelude and Fugue No. 1 in C Major from The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 1, performed by Harold Samuel (1926) [at 53min46]: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PuzkwG2qUqY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PuzkwG2qUqY)

If you’d like to read more about this topic, have a look at Nicholas Cook’s article (mentioned in the lecture), ‘Between Process and Product: Music and/as Performance’, in *MTO: A Journal of the Society for Music Theory*, Vol. 7, No. 2 (April 2001): [https://www.mtosmt.org/issues/mto.01.7.2/mto.01.7.2.cook.html](https://www.mtosmt.org/issues/mto.01.7.2/mto.01.7.2.cook.html)