

Canadian University Music Society

Proposal for a round table

Challenging 300 years of Piano Teaching Practices with 21st Century Research

Title: An Exploration on the muscle groups used in piano performance

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Speaker: Runa Das, Psychology

Abstract: The purpose of the present study was to investigate the effects of reversing the roles of the two hands during piano performance. More specifically, participants were required to play musical passages that transcribed fingerings from one hand to the other. Performances were then examined in terms of homologous muscle groups versus non-homologous muscle groups. Our hands are mirror images of one and other and therefore do not use the same fingerings for performing identical passages. As such, it would be of great interest to see whether or not fingering changes make a difference in left and right hand piano performances. The present experiment, therefore, investigated the spatio-temporal and musical constraints in motor coordination during piano performance.