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Summary of the Research

The Performing Techniques of Minimalism Piano Compositions

Through the second half of the twentieth century, many varied musical directions appeared in the American society, some of them follow the inherited European music traditionally, other were national produced music with especial American taste, there were other experimental directions till the music in America became more rich, more valued at the end of the twentieth century by a groupe of American composers which were interested in new experimental trends in music that led to the appearance of a new distinguished music movement in the sixties described as a new music language aims to simplicity in melodic structures, repetition with continuous gradual variation by using new performing techniques unused before, that new movement was called "Minimalism".

By studying minimal music written for the piano, the researcher believed that minimal music was the departure
point for many music trends and tendencies appeared later, that made the researcher choose minimalism in music as her main subject, to study this new music tendency particularly in piano music.

The research deals with a performing analytical study of a specific defined sample of Minimal compositions for the Piano by Philip Glass. The researcher followed the analytical descriptive methodology in her research, which includes four chapters as the Following.

**First Chapter:**

It is divided into two sections:

**The First Section:** Introduction of the research

It includes, the problem, aim and importance of the research. Procedure of the research, limits, sample, methodology, tools, questions and terms of the research.

The researcher cleared the reason of choosing the subject of the research which is to present the minimal compositions for the piano to the students and also to present the music style of Minimalism and all the performing techniques and aesthetics included which were the departure for many modern musical trends and directions.
The Research aims:

To study the Artistic characteristics of Minimal compositions for the piano and all the performing techniques included. The research also aims to suggest performing and guiding exercises to help the students to reach the perfect performance of these compositions.

The Second Section:

It includes previous studies related to the subject of the research. They are five studies presented chronologically by the researcher according their date of publishing.

First Study: Master research titled


Second Study: Master research titled

Music in Twelve Parts by Philip Glass Reconstruction, Construction and Deconstruction.

Third Study: Doctorate research titled

A Comparative Study of Reductionist Tendencies in the Arts.
Fourth Study: Doctorate research titled;

"The Music of Philip Glass During (1965 – 1975)".

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Fifth Study: Doctorate research titled

“Minimalism Music It’s Evolution as Seen in the Works of Philip Glass, Steve Reich, Terry Riley and La Monte Young”

Second Chapter:

It is divided into four section as follows:

The First Section:

It deals with the development of music culture in the American society in the twentieth century.

The researcher delt with the conceptual factors and famous trends affected the development of the twentieth century and how the American society accepted the European music culture, the conceptual change of the American society after the first world war and the appearance of the National trend in American music.

The researcher also delt with the role of the composers concerning enriching the music culture in the United States
of America, explaining the new American music structure and the experimental trends appeared in that period.

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The Second Section:

It deals with the conceptual trends of the twentieth century music divided into three stages as the following.

- **Beginning of the twentieth century (1900 – 1930)**
  Explaining all the music trends and directions side by side with their most famous composers.

- **Middle of the twentieth century (1930 – 1960)**
  Explaining the most important music schools and their most famous composers.

- **End of the twentieth century (1960 – 2000)**
  Explaining the most important music schools and their most famous composers.

The Third Section:
The researcher explained the linguistic concept of Minimalism and what does it mean as a music direction and she explained the concepts of minimal art.

History, development of Minimalism, aspects and music characteristics of Minimalism and the most minimal composers such as:

La Monte Young (1935 - )
Terry Riley (1935 - )
Steve Reich (1936 - )
Philip Glass (1937 - )
John Adams (1947 - ) are also mentioned in chronological order according their date of Birth.

The Fourth Section:

It includes biography of Philip Glass, his life, study, his music culture, factors affected his music personality and his works between 1965 – 1966. The researcher also mentioned his trip to study folklore music, his suffering through his life, his band and employing sounds in his band, the start of his band shows. The researcher also mentioned the relationship between Glass and plastic Artists and other composers of minimal music, his relationship with young, Riley and Reich, works by Glass in 1969 such as "Music in two pages", "Music in fifths" and "Music in contrary motion", "Music in similar motion" music in eight parts. The researcher
mentioned other works by Glass in the period between 1970 – 1974, such as: "Music with changing parts", "Music in 12 parts" and "Einstein on the Beach". The Artistic fame of Glass until 1976, his style as a keyboard player and his published compositions for the piano such as "Trilogy Sonata", "Modern Love Waltz" and "solo piano" are also mentioned in this section.

Third Chapter:

It includes the descriptive survey of the sample of the research which are the three minimal compositions for the piano by Philip Glass as the follows:

1) The first movement of "Trilogy sonata", which is the music interlude No. 4 (Knee play No.4) from opera Einstein on the Beach" Composed in 1976", published in 2001 by "Chester Music", Dunvagen, London.

2) Modern Love Waltz, which composed and Published in 1977 by chester music publishing consider Glass one of the pioneers of Minimal Music, most famous, more productions.

The researcher chose the above mentioned three compositions as a selective sample of minimal music for the piano by Philip Glass through the second half of the twentieth century, a sample which represents his music style in composition, his performing techniques which help in the performing and analytical study of the research.

Each composition had been analyzed through aim of the research, performing problems and techniques also been identified by the researcher aiming to find solutions for it by suggesting many exercises approved by experts to deal with all the artistic and technical problems.

**Fourth Chapter:**

It includes results of the research, which answered all the Questions of the research as followes:

**First Question:**

- What are the aspects and characteristics of minimal compositions for the piano in the sample of the research?
The researcher answered this question in details through theoretical and performing analytical study presented in the fourth chapter.

Second Question:
- What are the performing techniques and playing difficulties included in the minimal compositions for the piano in the sample of the research?

Third Question:
- What's the appropriate academic educational level for the sample of the research that copes with the performing capabilities of the undergraduate students at the faculty of music education?

The researcher presented the result of questionnaire includes opinions of ten experts and professors that shows agreeability for the performing techniques and artistic problems in the sample of the research, through which the researcher presented the answers by the theoretical and performing analytical study for this sample.

The researcher presented the answer to this question in the third chapter according to the result of a questionnaire.
includes opinions of experts and professors that shows agreeability in the following results:

- The first composition named The first movement of Trilogy Sonata suits the students of the second year of the faculty of music education.

- The second composition named Modern Love Waltz suits the students of the final year of the faculty of music education.

- The third composition named Wichita Vortex Sutra suits the students of the third year of the faculty of music education.

**Fourth Question:**

what are the suggested performing and guiding exercises to help to reach the perfect performance of the sample of the research?

The researcher presented result of Questionnaire which includes opinions of experts and professors about the suggested exercises and the style of dealing with the artistic problems, that showed agreeability. The researcher complied by recommendations, Arabic and English references, Edition
of Minimal compositions by Philip Glass, also summary of the research in Arabic and English language are included.