

Share: Discovering Baroque Style Through Performance

For Group Piano Classes:

Baroque Video Comparison Challenge

- Assign each group one Baroque piece (e.g., a prelude by Bach or a dance movement by De La Guerre) and give them three video performances of that same piece by different artists.
- Students will watch all three versions and identify differences in tempo, ornamentation, articulation, dynamics, and interpretation.
- Each group creates a visual comparison chart, annotated score, or short slideshow showing what they noticed.
- Encourage students to include historical insights from their reading on HIP (historical performance practices), such as why performers might play trills differently or use light articulation.
- After group presentations, invite discussion using these questions:
 - “Which version felt the most ‘authentic’ to the Baroque style—and why?”
 - “How did each performer use their own creativity within Baroque guidelines?”
 - “What role does historical research play in how we perform music from the past?”

For Private Lessons:

Your HIP Interpretation: One Piece, Many Choices

- Assign the student a short Baroque piece (or an excerpt) and guide them to listen to three performances of the same work by different artists.
- Ask the student to take notes on differences in ornamentation, articulation, rhythm, pedaling, and general expression.
- In the lesson, help the student experiment with playing the piece in multiple styles based on what they heard—and encourage them to make HIP-informed choices using articulation, ornamentation, and dynamic contrast.
- Once they settle on their version, they’ll perform it for you (or for peers) and explain the artistic and historical choices behind their interpretation.
- Ask reflection questions like:
 - “What did you learn about Baroque style from comparing the videos?”
 - “What choices did you make in your version—and why?”
 - “How does understanding historical style affect your own creativity?”
 - “What makes a Baroque interpretation convincing or engaging?”

To further spark creativity, explore performances and teaching resources from the course [Hidden Gems: Four Centuries of Piano Music by Women Composers](https://pianoinspires.com/courses/hidden-gems-four-centuries-of-piano-music-by-women-composers), available at pianoinspires.com/courses. Discover Baroque works by women composers like Magdalena Dackert, Elisabetta de Gambarini, Maria Teresa Agnesi, and Élisabeth Jacquet de La Guerre, perfect for expanding historical repertoire in your studio.