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In Search of a Lost Language: Performing in Early-Recorded Style in Viola and String Quartet Repertoires

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Propositions

The all-in approach to copying early-recorded violists and string quartets rejuvenates the more personal, intimate and communicative playing styles heard on early recordings.

Thinking of *Werktreue* in terms of performer creativity reconciles performers' desires to be faithful to composers' scores with personalized and idiosyncratic approaches to these scores.

Lo-fi recording methods encourage string players to focus on a performer-led, communicative and moment-to-moment style of performance above precision of detail and purity of tone.

Early recordings evidence the wider range of creative possibilities historical performers had at their disposal.

Research into early recordings implies that historically informed performance practitioners should rethink their approach to earlier repertoires given that recordings suggest past performance practices were unexpectedly different from current understandings of period writings on those practices.

Early recordings demonstrate that orchestras of the past achieved a directness and poignancy in their performances that is lacking in most orchestral concerts today, in part because of abysmally low standards of orchestral conducting, whereby conductors rehearse only for accuracy and clarity.

Early recordings of singers demonstrate the extent to which a performer-led, moment-to-moment vocal style was once used to communicate operatic music, in contrast with today's opera performances in which poor and un-engaging singing is worsened by the dominance of convoluted and over-intellectualized staging.

Vast treasure troves of early recordings demonstrate how meaningful performances of Western Art Music can be, and as such, they make a case for why canonic repertoires deserve a more prominent place in our society and why they should be supported with adequate funding by local and national governments.

Our failure to take collective responsibility on a global scale for the current environmental catastrophe will be looked upon as an abject failure by future generations.

Brexit will result in the United Kingdom becoming isolated, ignored and increasingly irrelevant on the world stage in economic, cultural and political terms.

A diet centered on whole plant foods is optimal for human health throughout all stages of life.

Adopting a universal basic income will allow a greater portion of the general population to pursue life-enriching activities while being free from economic insecurity.
