

Baroque pupil-centred approach

Scenario

- Brooke is 14 years old and goes to a private Girls school.
- Her parents are very upper class and “require” Brooke to play the piano.
- Her motivation is questionable but she is only familiar with “classical” music.
- Brooke has been sent to me after a falling out with a previous older man who she has been learning from since she was 5.
- Since coming to me we have established a good rapport and found some common ground as “girls”.
- She has enquired of me my favourite composer, after a lifeless rendition of her pieces learnt previously.
- I engage her with her favourite subject - maths - and explain the intricacies of J.S.Bach’s music and why I find playing his music so stimulating intellectually.
- We cover imitation, modulation, integration of themes through modulation, counter subjects and on...
- All of a sudden Brooke becomes a Baroque freak and wants to know everything about it. Well to start with Bach..... next lesson, who knows?