I. *Listen to Silence!*

A. Listening, Imagination and Expression

1. Connect with your inner child
   - What is the “drama” of the work?
   - Where is its Heart?
   - Sing!  Dance!  Play!”

2. Channel your inner Spielberg
   - Create musical Characters
   - Conversation and dialogues
   - Exaggerate the imagery - like reading to a child
   - Find the story – use imaginative imagery
   - Think like an artist
   - Use emotional descriptors for sounds

3. Summon your musicianship
   - Harmonic Rhythm
   - Tempo relationships and architecture
   - Textures
   - Rhythmic Phrasing
   - Note Groupings
   - Anticrurus/crusis – To, From and At

Q: Conducting is the art of translating physical gesture into sound. Is there something in female gesture as opposed to male gesture, because of the difference in the physicality, that translates into different responses from an orchestra?
A: Everything we do is about gesture and the way humanity interprets gestures. The same gesture from a woman and a man is completely different. I talk to conductors a lot about trying to neutralize or de-genderize their gestures so that there are no stereotypical associations. As a woman conductor if you extend your little finger on your baton hand it looks like you’re having tea – unconsciously people will find it lightweight. If a man does it it’s usually interpreted as a gesture of sensitivity. You really have to really go through your physical vocabulary and analyze it from many different levels. – Marin Alsop

II. Movement and Artistry

A. Whole body conducting – combine mental sound concept with physical expression

B. How does sound look? How does it feel? How is it interpreted? What does that do to body?

1. GO LONG! - ELIMINATE BEATS
   Think weights of sound
   Planes - where does sound live?
   Lessen angles
   Think sound shapes
   **EXERCISE:** Expand and contract
   **EXERCISE:** Meld on different beats/note shapes

2. LESS IS MORE
   Conduct smaller : use fingertips
   **EXERCISE** – “Technique” box
   **EXERCISE** – Box with weights/styles/tempi
   **EXERCISE** – Finger pressure

3. RELAX
   **EXERCISE:** Zero gravity – no angles
   **EXERCISE:** Put the pattern in your big toe – put all expression there – focus it. How to do thru gesture?
   **EXERCISE:** Yoga breath
OTHER RESOURCES

Sound in Motion                David McGill
Note Grouping                  James Thurmond
The Conductor as Leader        Ramona Wis
The Musicians Soul             James Jordan
The Score, the Orchestra, and the Conductor
                                     Gustav Meier
The Compleat Conductor         Gunther Schuller
The Modern Conductor (7th ed)  Elizabeth Green
My Lessons with Kumi           Michael Colgrass
A Soprano on Her Head          Eloise Rilstad
Conducting with Feeling        Frederick Harris Jr.
The Art of Possibility         Benjamin Zander

VIDEOS

TedTalk                         Carl St. Clair “Innovation Whispers”
TedTalk                         Benjamin Zander
YouTube                         Traces to Nowhere – Carlos Kleiber
YouTube                         Conductors in Rehearsal
Conducting and Phrasing the Musical Line

CLINICIAN:
Dr. Sarah McKoin

Texas Bandmasters Association
2014 Convention/Clinic

JULY 27-30, 2014
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