Piece #1 ~ Handel: Chaconne in G major, HWV 435

Chaconne is a beautiful piece. The piece frequently changed from high-pitched and quick notes to deep, low notes. This piece made me think of the ups and downs that I have gone through in my life and how everything isn’t up-beat and happy. It reminded me of how great times don't last forever but on the other hand, bad times don't either. It was a very interesting piece to me due to the change in melody throughout the entire piece. Pressler was able to play the piece in a way to convey the message that the composer of the piece intended. Most of the piece was played with a terric legato, making the piece very smooth. The subtle changes from slow, deep notes to quick, high notes and vice versa, flowed perfectly together where it was almost unnoticeable. Towards the end of the piece (around 8 minutes into the youtube video) the two melodies were put together. The right hand was playing quick notes as the left was playing deep, rich notes to create a beautiful sound. This piece was very easy to listen to and enjoyable. I would love to hear more music by Handel but also, more music played by Menanem Pressler.

Mozart: Fantasia in C minor, K. 475

I usually enjoy Mozart's pieces, but this piece I wasn't too fond of. The slow, deep melody isn't the type of music which I enjoy. Menaham Pressler played the piece beautifully. He smoothly moved into the different “parts” of piece making me barely realise there was any change at all. I pieces which use legato to smoothly flow from one note to the next but I didn’t like the low, seemingly sad notes for the first three minutes of the piece. It was very interesting that piece went from a happy song to a more depressing/sad song. I appreciate the change in style between the songs, but didn’t love the song itself. The slow tempo of the piece was still delivered very well to audience. I enjoy listening to Mozart more often than not, but this piece was not the
style of play I truly enjoy listening to. Pressler was able to convey his passion for the piece through his body language and his play. Pressler played the piece exactly how Mozart would have wanted it to be played.

Mozart: Piano Sonata No. 14 in C minor, K. 457

This piece is the style of Mozart pieces which I really enjoy listening to. The dynamics of this piece are spectacular. The piece quickly changes in mood by playing slower, faster, louder, or quieter. While watching the piece, I could feel the emotion that Pressler was playing with. He played this piece very convincingly, not only through music, but also through his body language. It was very obvious to me that piano is something that he is passionate about. My favorite part of the piece was around 36 minutes into the video. The piece was played slowly and softly until at one moment, the melody switched. It was played loudly and very quick, deep notes which changed the mood completely. The piece is about twenty minutes long and pressler seems to have most of it memorized perfectly. This seems like an incredibly difficult piece and pressler is able to memorize and play it perfectly. It is truly amazing to see someone so amazing and passionate at playing piano. I would love to relisten to this song in the near future.

Debussy: Excerpts from Preludes 1 (“Danseuses de Delphes”, “Voiles”, “La Fille aux cheveux de lin”, “La cathédrale engloutie”, “Minstrels”)

This piece by Debussy isn’t a piece which is supposed to show pressler's skill in play but to show how he's able to convincingly relay a message from the song to the audience. This piece is beautiful. Even though I'm not a big fan of slow music, this piece creates emotion by using different styles of mood and constantly changing the melody. I found this piece to be very interesting. At fifty seven minutes, the music goes to a very low and strong point. I felt that Debussy was trying to illustrate a hardship or obstacle which he had to get through. The piece continues to change in melody and tempo which has kept me very interested in the piece. I would love to listen to more of Debussy’s music because it creates a stronger story than many other pieces. I love the mood of this piece. The quick changes in every aspect of music are brilliant. Again, Pressler managed the play this piece very well and perfectly convey the message which Debussy meant to convey. Pressler is an excellent pianist, I would love to watch more of his concertos.
It is pretty amazing to have somebody as skilled as Menahem Pressler as a grand teacher. I enjoyed watching this critique video much more than my previous one. He played with such passion and emotion. The audience seemed to enjoy his music as much as I did. I would love to see more of his videos and see his passion for other music as well. He convincingly played every single piece, with no mishaps or breaks. Menahem Pressler is a fascinating pianist.