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Three Laws of Piano Technique--A Parliamentary motion

Whereas each summer I work with talented young students from around the globe at the Indiana University Piano Academy, and am struck by the frequency with which I find myself repeating core principles of piano technique that catch so many of these remarkable students unawares;

Whereas there are, after all, three laws of thermodynamics;

Whereas Newton articulated three laws of motion;

Whereas there is a need for basic laws for students to apply in developing their technical armamentarium, and such laws must address fundamental questions of anticipation, attack, and artistry;

Whereas such laws must provide a logical and interrelated set of technical axioms from which other pianistic principles can in turn be derived;

Whereas it is our duty to educate young pianists in the law, that they might become responsible members of the clavier community, with independent selection of fingerings, sensible application of weight, and effective movement about the keyboard; and

Whereas an added benefit is that, once we know the Law, we will be able to identify even more readily those who lurk at the margins of keyboard society: pianistic scofflaws and criminals(!); now therefore be it

Resolved that the following shall be our Laws of Piano Technique:

1. Each note shall be played in the direction of the next;
2. The motion by which a note is reached shall be the same motion with which it is played; and
3. At all times, each finger shall be positioned with an awareness of where it is to play next.