

Please discuss two or more aspects of the role which gesture plays in contemporary thought about meaning formation in musical context

Face, body language – all these three elements are very important when it comes to communicating, whether it is a musician to his audience or just two people talking. We all know of an example of meeting a new person and they seem nice enough, are polite and say the right thing but there is something missing or something that just doesn't give you the right vibe. Usually if people start analyzing the circumstances they will see that one of the parts are missing, perhaps it is a facial expressions that just doesn't sit right or the body language is closing the person off from others.

When you go to the theatre and see a play you expect the actors not to just say the lines they are supposed to but to play the character and play it so you believe that the actor is indeed the character. Actors have to use all three elements to portray a character they are playing to make a credible person that the audience believes to be real. They really have to become the person or character they are trying to portray. In some ways the same applies to musicians, they have to portray the composition in the light of which the composers wanted it to be portrayed. If the musician is feeling quite under the weather it will possibly show when he is playing the piece.

All these three elements, the face, body and language, are connected and it is necessary to use them all, most of us do it with out even knowing. I believe that it is also possible to go over the line when it comes to expression, we have seen the actor that overplays his role so that it gets unbearable to watch and most of us have seen a musician put too much emphasis on the "show" rather than on the music. A good musician should not need anything other than his instrument whether it is his voice or a violin to make a good show. The usage of all kinds of gimmicks is seen as normal in our society today, so much so that some times it seems that people have in some ways disconnected their imagination and rely solely on others to entertain. When these people go to see a concert they expect a "show".