



Sample Solo Recital Programs of Classical Pianists

Compiled by [Peabody LAUNCHPad](#), updated Aug. 2018

We offer these programs, organized in the following three categories, to help rising pianists develop innovative programs of their own:

- Programs Built on a Concept
- Programs that Include Newer Repertoire
- Conventional Programs with a Twist

Programs Built on a Concept

Lara Downes

The Story of a Steinway

The Piano is Born	Ludwig van Beethoven: "Hammerklavier" Sonata
The Piano Soars	Frédéric Chopin: Nocturne Op. 23 #1
The Piano Roars	Sergei Prokofiev: Toccata Op. 11
The Piano Swings	George Gershwin: I Got Rhythm
The Piano Sings	from The Billie Holiday Songbook, arr. Jed Distler
The Piano Today	Nico Muhly : Running

Shao-Hsun Chang

Govans Presbyterian Church, Baltimore; May 5, 2013

Feathered Friends: Great Composers Celebrate Birdsong

Jean-Philippe Rameau	Le rappel des oiseaux (Bird Calls)
Jean-Philippe Rameau	La poule (The Hen)
Ludwig van Beethoven	Sonata No. 25 in G Major, Op. 79, "Cuckoo"
Franz Liszt	from Deux Légendes, S. 175: -No. 1: La predication aux oiseaux (Sermon to the Birds)
Olivier Messiaen	Vingt regards sur l'enfant-Jésus -No. 8: Regard des Hauteurs (Contemplation of the Heights)

Jenny Q Chai

Spectrum NYC, New York City; May 7, 2013

Acqua Alta (High Water): A Program about Global Warming

Domenico Scarlatti	Sonatas
György Kurtág	Hommage à Domenico Scarlatti
Orlando Gibbons	Italian Ground (1613)
Marco Stroppa	Ninnananna from Miniature Estrose
Claude Debussy	Prelude: La cathédrale engloutie
Maurice Ravel	Une barque sur l'océan from Miroirs
Franz Liszt	La lugubre gondola
Nils Vigeland	I Turisti*
Milica Paranosic	Bubble*
Michael Vincent Waller	Acqua Santa*
John Cage	Water Walk

* pieces written for Jenny Chai

Andy Costello*Chapelle Historique du Bon-Pasteur, Montréal, QC; December 4, 2014***Masques de Schumann**

Robert Schumann	Papillons, Op. 2
Robert Schumann	Intermezzi, Op. 4
Robert Schumann	Kinderszenen, Op. 15
<u>Jimmie Leblanc</u>	... au seuil de l'instant... (Création Mondiale)
<u>Chris Paul Harman</u>	After Schumann
<u>John Rea</u>	Las Meninas

Kit Armstrong*Kennedy Center Terrace Theater, Washington, D.C.; November 16, 2013***B-A-C-H: Bach – Liszt – Armstrong**

Franz Liszt	Fantasy and Fugue on the theme B-A-C-H, S.529
J. S. Bach	Chorale Preludes, BWV: 614,713, 605, 712, 721, 738, 711, 715, 701
<u>Kit Armstrong</u>	Fantasy on B-A-C-H
--Intermission--	
Franz Liszt	Elegies, S.196 & S.197
Franz Liszt	Mephisto Waltz No. 2, S.515
J. S. Bach/Liszt	Fantasy and Fugue in G minor, BWV 542, S.463

Antonio Pompa-Baldi *Old First Concerts, San Francisco; May 31, 2013***Après une lecture de Liszt**

Sergei Lyapunov	Transcendental Etude Op. 11 No. 12, “Elegy in memory of Franz Liszt”
Frédéric Chopin	Twelve Etudes, Op. 10 (dedicated to Franz Liszt)
--Intermission--	
Franz Liszt	Ballade No. 2 from <i>Années de Pèlerinage II: Sposalizio</i>
Giuseppe Verdi/Liszt	Concert paraphrase on Ernani
<u>Roberto Piana</u>	Après une lecture de Liszt

András Schiff*Stern Auditorium, New York City; March 10 & 12, 2015***PROGRAM ONE “Last Sonatas”**

Franz Joseph Haydn	Piano Sonata in C Major, Hob. XVI: 50
Ludwig van Beethoven	Piano Sonata No. 30 in E Major, Op. 109
--Intermission--	
W. A. Mozart	Piano Sonata in C Major, K. 545
Franz Schubert	Piano Sonata in C Minor, D. 958

PROGRAM TWO “Last Sonatas”

W. A. Mozart	Piano Sonata in B-flat Major, K. 570
Ludwig van Beethoven	Piano Sonata No. 31 in A-flat Major, Op. 110
--Intermission--	
Franz Joseph Haydn	Piano Sonata in D Major, Hob. HVI: 51
Franz Schubert	Piano Sonata in A Major, D. 959

Paavali Jumppanen*Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston; May 4, 2014***Schumann-Stockhausen, Part I (first of a cycle of complete Stockhausen & Schumann piano works)**

<u>Karlheinz Stockhausen</u>	Klavierstücke IX
Robert Schumann	Variations on the name “Abegg” in F Major, Op. 1
<u>Karlheinz Stockhausen</u>	Klavierstücke XI (realization-I)

Robert Schumann	Humoreske in B-flat Major, Op. 20
<u>Karlheinz Stockhausen</u>	Klavierstücke XI (realization-II)
<u>Han Chen</u>	<i>Spectrum NYC, New York City; May 9, 2014</i>
Solo Piano Repertoire of New York	
<u>Caroline Shaw</u>	Gustave Le Gray (2012)
<u>Han Chen</u>	Impromptus (2012-2013)
<u>Elliott Carter</u>	Two Thoughts About The Piano
	I. Intermittences (2005)
	II. Caténares (2006)
<u>Milica Paranosic</u>	Bubble (is in trouble) (2013)
<u>Molly Joyce</u>	Strut (2013-2014)
<u>Missy Mazzoli</u>	Isabelle Eberhardt Dreams of Pianos (2007)

Blair McMillen ***Ripon College, Ripon, WI; February 14, 2014***

The Legacy of the American Piano

Charles Ives	Study #23 (1911)
<u>Frederic Rzewski</u>	De Profundis (1992)
	--Intermission--
John Cage	In a Landscape (1948)
	Water Music (1952)
<u>Elliott Carter</u>	90+
Aaron Copland	El Salon México (1936)

Blair McMillen

Microcosm/Macrocosm: George Crumb's "Makrokosmos, Book 2," plus Debussy, Bartók, and Chopin

I.

<u>George Crumb</u>	Morning Mystic (Genesis II)
	The Mystic Chord
	Rain-Death Variations
Bela Bartók	No. 1, from Four Dirges, Op. 9a
	Dance No. 1 in Bulgarian Rhythm, from Mikrokosmos Book 6
<u>George Crumb</u>	Twin Suns (Doppelgänger aus der Ewigkeit)
Claude Debussy	La Cathédrale engloutie ("The Sunken Cathedral"), from Preludes I

II.

<u>George Crumb</u>	Ghost-Nocturne: for the Druids of Stonehenge (Night-Spell 2)
Claude Debussy	Des pas sur la neige ("Footprints in the Snow), from Preludes I
Bela Bartók	With Drums and Pipes, from Out of Doors Suite
	March, from Mikrokosmos Book 6
<u>George Crumb</u>	Gargoyles
	Tora! Tora! Tora! (Cadenza Apocalittica)
	A Prophecy of Nostradamus
Frédéric Chopin	Nocturne in Db Major, Op. 27 No. 2

III.

<u>George Crumb</u>	Cosmic Wind
Bela Bartók	Dance No. 6 in Bulgarian Rhythm, from Mikrokosmos Book 6
Claude Debussy	Ce qu'a vu le vent d'Ouest ("What the West Wind Saw"), from Preludes I
<u>George Crumb</u>	Voices from Corona Borealis
	Litany of the Galactic Bells
	Agnus Dei

Claude Debussy Les sons et les parfums tournent dans l'air du soir ("Sounds and Fragrances Swirl through the Evening Air"), from Preludes I

Blair McMillen *Delaware County Community College, Media, PA; November 9, 2014*

No Holds Barred: A program about musical and pianistic exploration, and being liberated from simply playing one's instrument in the conventional way

Don Byron 7 Etudes (for vocalizing pianist)
No. 1, "Guernica"; No. 3; No. 5; No. 2

John Cage The Wonderful Widow of Eighteen Springs
Suite for Toy Piano

David Rakowski Toyed Together
Extended Puppy
Absofunkinlutely

Annie Gosfield Brooklyn, Oct. 5, 1941

--Intermission--

George Crumb Makrokosmos, Book 2

Programs that Include Newer Repertoire

Benjamin Hochman *Kennedy Center Terrace Theater, Washington, D.C.; February 1, 2014*

Oliver Knussen Variations

Johannes Brahms Variations on a Theme by Handel, Op. 24

--Intermission--

Frederic Rzewski The People United Will Never Be Defeated!

Bruce Levingston *Zankel Hall, New York City; April 7, 2014*

György Ligeti Suite from Musica Ricercata

J. S. Bach/Reger Chorale Prelude in B minor, BWV 727

J. S. Bach Prelude and Fugue in B minor, BWV 869 (Well-Tempered Clavier, Book I)

Mohammed Fairouz El Male Rachamim (a prayer in memory of György Ligeti)

--Intermission--

Timo Andres Heavy Sleep

Claude Debussy La fille aux cheveux de lin (The girl with the flaxen hair, Preludes Book I)

György Kurtág La fille aux cheveux de lin - enragée (Mad girl with the flaxen hair)

J. S. Bach/Kurtág "Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit" BWV 106 (Actus Tragicus)

Philip Glass Dracula Suite

Sarah Cahill *Old First Concerts, San Francisco; August 2, 2013*

John Kennedy Naturali Periclitati

Ann Southam Glass Houses No. 5

Henry Cowell Rhythmicana

Shinji Eshima Delta 88

--Intermission--

Samuel Carl Adams Piano Step

Ann Southam Glass Houses No. 7

Rivers, Series II, No. 2

Henry Cowell High Color

Simone Dinnerstein *Kennedy Center Concert Hall, Washington, D.C.; February 9, 2014*

Nico Muhly You Can't Get There From Here

J. S. Bach 15 Two-Part Inventions

--Intermission--

George Crumb Eine Kleine Mitternacht Musik
Ludwig van Beethoven Sonata No. 32 in C minor, Op. 111
Ralph van Raat *(le) poisson rouge, New York City; May 12, 2014*
David Lang Boy (2001)
David Lang Before Gravity (2012)
Louis Andriessen from Souvenirs d'Enfance (1954-1966):
-Nocturne
-Allegro Marcato
-Étude pour les Timbres
-Dotted quarter = 72
Tan Dun C-A-G-E (in memory of John Cage) (1994)
Gerard Beljon Beat (written for Ralph van Raat) (2003)

--Intermission--

Joep Franssens Winter Child (1996)
John Adams Phrygian Gates (1977-78)
Jacob Greenberg *Spectrum NYC, New York City; June 30, 2013*
Claude Debussy Two Preludes and Etudes
Dai Fujikura Returning
Ludwig van Beethoven Bagatelles, Op. 126
Elliott Carter 90+
Nathan Davis Ghostlight for solo piano, gently prepared
Igor Stravinsky Serenade in A

David Kaplan *(le) poisson rouge, New York City; October 22, 2013*
Johannes Brahms Sieben Fantasiën, Op. 116: Capriccio – Intermezzo – Capriccio – Intermezzo
Arnold Schoenberg Sechs Kleine Klavierstücke, Op. 19
Johannes Brahms Sieben Fantasiën, Op. 116: Intermezzo – Intermezzo – Capriccio
Andrew Norman Sonnets
Timo Andres How Can I Live in Your World of Ideas?
Ludwig van Beethoven Sonata No. 26 in E-flat, Op. 81a, “Les adieux”

Conventional Programs with a Twist

David Gross

Jan Hugo Voříšek Fantaisie, Op. 12
Leoš Janáček In the Mist
Erwin Schulhoff Jazz Etudes

--Intermission--

Franz Schubert Sixteen German Dances and Two Ecossaises, D. 783
Franz Schubert Wandererfantasie, D. 760

John Boyajy

J. S. Bach Italian Concerto, BWV 971
Ann Callaway from Recent Runes: Cryptica
Claude Debussy L'isle joyeuse, L. 106

--Intermission--

Ann Callaway from Recent Runes: Gnostalgia
Frédéric Chopin Ballade No. 2 in F major, Op. 38

Ann Callaway
Frédéric Chopin

from Recent Runes: Etherea
Ballade No. 4 in F minor, Op. 52

Emanuel Ax

Johannes Brahms
J. Brahms/Brett Dean

Shriver Hall, Baltimore; May 11, 2014

Piano Sonata No. 2 in F-sharp minor, Op. 2
4 Klavierstücke, Op. 119/Hommage à Brahms
-I. Intermezzo: Adagio in B minor (Brahms)
-Engelsflügel 1: Nicht schnell aber fließend (Dean)
-II. Intermezzo: Andantino un poco agitato in E minor (Brahms)
-Hafenkneipenmusik: Lebhaft, unruhig (Dean)
-III. Intermezzo: Grazioso e giocoso in C major (Brahms)
-Engelsflügel 2: Langsam, zart (Dean)
-IV. Rhapsodie: Allegro risoluto in E-flat major (Brahms)

--Intermission--

Missy Mazzoli
Johannes Brahms

Bolts of Loving Thunder
Variations and Fugue on a Theme by Händel, Op. 24

Antonio Iturrioz

J. S. Bach/Godowsky
Frédéric Chopin
Louis M. Gottschalk
Robert Schumann
J. Strauss II/Godowsky

Old First Concerts, San Francisco; January 13, 2013
from Violin Suite No. 3 in A minor, BWV 1003: Aria
from Études, Op. 25: No. 1 in A-flat major & No. 7 in C-sharp minor
El Cocoyé, Op. 80
Selections from Kinderszenen, Op. 15 (Scenes from Childhood)
Excerpts from Symphonic Metamorphoses on the Artist's Life Waltzes

--Intermission--

Two pieces for the left hand alone:

Alexander Scriabin
Chopin/Godowsky
Charles Sepos
Louis M. Gottschalk

Nocturne, Op. 9, No. 2
Étude, Op. 10, No. 6
Tango Blue
Nuit des Tropiques, Symphony Romantique: Andante & Allegro Moderato

Soheil Nasser

Johannes Brahms
Ludwig van Beethoven
Michael Hersch

Merkin Concert Hall, New York City; September 3, 2013
Four Capricci from Klavierstücke, Op. 76: No. 1, 2, 5, & 8
Sonata No. 16 in G Major, Op. 31, No. 1
Tenebrae

--Intermission--

Michael Hersch
Sergei Rachmaninoff

Two Lullabies
Sonata No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 36

Kirill Gerstein

Franz Joseph Haydn
Robert Schumann

Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, Boston; January 31, 2014
Variations in F minor, Hob. XVII: 6
Carnaval, Opus 9

--Intermission--

Timo Andres
Modest Mussorgsky

Old Friend
Pictures at an Exhibition