

Creating Contributors: The IMSLP Intermediate Piano Repertoire Project

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The *List of Intermediate Piano Repertoire*¹ is a page of 190 links to individual pieces, collections, and multi-movement works. It was created by 4 graduate students in a piano pedagogy course.

Creating Contributors

Projects are often used in piano pedagogy courses. They can:

- familiarize students with course content
- provide real-world experiences
- culminate in a resource used by students after the class is complete

The goal of this project was to create a sense of community and increased engagement among students by making the result of the project public.

The Assignment

Students were to create a new page at IMSLP. They would find five pieces of intermediate piano repertoire each week and record themselves playing one of them. Pieces were entered into a shared spreadsheet².

The Model

Students used the *List of Compositions for Easy Piano Trio*³ at IMSLP as a model. Our community music program uses this list for pre-college chamber music concerts.

¹https://imslp.org/wiki/List_of_Intermediate_Piano_Repertoire

²https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vRweBzOmAeEVabSFzS9H6JhG4g45I5OmdqPOQ_dL6ehHdcF4OeMoTrEP9Ocp3-ZrJHM4IrWgt9qITg/pubhtml

³https://imslp.org/wiki/List_of_Compositions_for_Easy_Piano_Trio

The Discussions

Meaningful conversations that happened over the course of the project included:

- **Limitations.** What is the range of difficulty for *intermediate* music?
- **Browsing IMSLP.** Students had used IMSLP before, but had not browsed the site using the category walker⁴.
- **History.** How was the "canon" of teaching repertoire developed? What factors played a role in the development of the canon beyond the "quality" of the pieces?
- **The IMSLP Library.** What music is available at IMSLP? Why?
- **Copyright, Public Domain, and Creative Common Licenses.** Many pre-college competitions and festivals have a "No Photocopies Allowed" policy. Why?
- **Recordings.** Recordings were generally under-practiced and unedited. We discussed the importance of being able to successfully model the pieces we assign and the basics of audio recording and editing.
- **Editions.** Manuscript copies, first editions, complete works editions, and new digital engravings are all at IMSLP. Which ones should the piano teacher choose? This discussion led to student-created engravings of Kuhlau's *Sonatina, Op. 55, No. 1*⁵ and Latour's *Four Progressive Sonatinas*⁶.

Page Views

The *List of Intermediate Piano Repertoire* at IMSLP has been viewed over 50,000 times since it was created in January 2017 and averages 4,000 views per month. Some student recordings have been downloaded thousands of times.

⁴https://imslp.org/wiki/IMSLP:View_Genres

⁵[https://imslp.org/wiki/Piano_Sonatina_in_C_major,_Op.55_No.1_\(Kuhlau,_Friedrich\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Piano_Sonatina_in_C_major,_Op.55_No.1_(Kuhlau,_Friedrich))

⁶[https://imslp.org/wiki/4_Progressive_Sonatinas_\(Latour%2C_Theodore\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/4_Progressive_Sonatinas_(Latour%2C_Theodore))