

Music Teachers National Association

2019 National Conference

Spokane, Washington

Monday, March 18, 2019

10:30 A.M.

***Beyond Rhapsody in Blue: Other Great American
Piano Concertos***

William Phemister

American Piano Concertos Frequently Asked Questions:

How many American Piano Concertos are there? 1,634 +
How many composers wrote these Piano Concertos? 1,056 +
When was the first one written?

1869 Otto Singer Fantasia –or- 1875 Otis B. Boise Concerto.

What is the most recently written and premiered concerto? March 8, 2019
John Adams: Must the Devil Have All the Great Tunes?
Los Angeles Philharmonic/Gustavo Dudamel, Yuja Wang

Which composer wrote the most concertos?

Which one is the hardest?

How many have you played?

How many have you taught?

Which ones are the most well-known?

MacDowell (especially #2)
Samuel Barber Concerto
Aaron Copland Concerto
Gershwin Concerto and Rhapsody in Blue
Morton Gould Interplay
Leonard Bernstein Age of Anxiety
Howard Hanson Concerto

Which ones have won prizes?

Pulitzer Prizes:

1952 – Gail Kubik Symphony Concertante
1954 – Quincy Porter Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra
1964 – Samuel Barber Piano Concerto + 1964 Music Critics Circle Award
1990 – Mel Powell "Duplicates": A Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra
2006 – Yehudi Wyner Piano Concerto: 'Chiavi in Mano'
2016 – Pulitzer finalist – Timo Andres The Blind Banister
2019 – Kenneth Fuchs won a Grammy for his recording of "Spiritualist"

Who are the pianists who are busiest performing these concertos?

Emanuel Ax - Paul Barnes - Jeffrey Biegel - Michael Boriskin - Alan Feinberg
William Masselos - Marjorie Mitchell - Ursula Oppens - Jesús María Sanromá
Earl Wild. Duo-pianists Joshua Pierce and Dorothy Jonas.

100 Concertos from *The American Piano Concerto Compendium*

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- John Adams – Century Rolls (1996); Eros Piano (1989); Grand Pianola Music/two pianos (1982).
All 3: CD/YouTube = YT
- Beth Anderson – Concerto (1947): There's never been a concerto like this post-minimalist example. CD
- Leroy Anderson – Concerto in C (1953): his most ambitious concert work. – CD/YT
- Daniel Asia – Concerto (1994); a remarkable pastiche of colorful orchestration surrounding jazzy rhythms and dark romanticism with an internal depth, almost a brooding intensity, propelling it forward. – CD/YT
- George Barati – Concerto (1973): this is a concerto of highest polish and musical intelligence.
- Samuel Barber – Concerto (1962). Pulitzer Prize. This is a real virtuoso concerto, with some staggeringly difficult writing. – CD/YT
- Irwin Bazelon – Trajectories (1985): interplay between piano and orchestra is seamless, the movement between rhythmic sections, legato, and lyrical passages keeps the listener on the edge of their seat. – CD/YT
- Leonard Bernstein – Symphony No. 2, "Age of Anxiety": This is the finest single movement in an American idiom and feeling that ever I have heard. – CD/YT
- Marc Blitzstein – Concerto (1931): This is a strong, quirky, original work by a composer of great skill. CD
- William Bolcom – Concerto (1976): neatly crafted, essentially lyrical, entertaining, fun, and occasionally downright funny. – CD
- Elliott Carter – Concerto (1965): the most original and powerful work by an American composer
- Double Concerto (1961): nothing less than an astonishing conception. Both on CD/YT
- Aaron Copland – Concerto (1926): this new concerto sounded like the early work of a man who may become a great composer! – CD/YT CD/YT
- John Corigliano – Concerto (1968) – ranging from dissonance through jazzy modernism to tenderly romantic strains reminiscent of the Baroque, it is marked by rapid changes of tempo and quick changes from furious vigor to the utmost delicacy. – CD/YT
- Henry Cowell – 5 concertos, including Concerto (1929): Mr. Cowell is a musical power, a genius, and the sounds born of his spirit and fingers spring into true being, pulsing with an imperious life that is not to be doubted no matter how strange the form. – CD/YT
- Richard Danielpour – 5 concertos, including Metamorphosis/CD; No. 2; No.3/Zodiac/LH; No.4/Hero – CD/YT; Mirrors.
- Norman Dello Joio – Fantasy and Variations (1961): the most significant piano-and orchestra composition by an American composer in years; Ricercari (1946) – both LP/YT.
- Emma Lou Diemer – Concerto in One Movement (1991) – Friedheim Orchestral Award 1992. – YT
- Antal Dorati – Concerto (1974): one helluva brilliant new piano concerto. – YT
- John Duke – Concerto, piano and strings (1938): a delightfully warm composition.
- Eric Ewazen – Chamber Symphony for Piano/Ch Orch (1985): omnipresent piano, as harpsichord in Baroque orchestral music. – CD/YT.
- Alan Fletcher – Concerto (2017): The piece is about singing. The piano and orchestra are sometimes opposed and sometimes united, but they are always singing to each other. 1st perf. July/Aspen
- Lukas Foss – No. 2 (1953): Foss crafted a work accommodating the past and the present. Arthur Rubinstein championed it, calling it 'one of the finest pieces written in our time'. – CD/YT
- Philip Glass – No. 1, "Tirol" (2000): cast in the poignant, elegiac style that Glass knows so well . . . the emotion of this music is as familiar as, say, love—and as endlessly fresh; No. 2, "Lewis & Clark" (2004): Commissioned by the Nebraska Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission in celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the explorers' journey across the American continent.;' Double (piano) Concerto (2015): There's a mellow, jazzy quality at play: Imagine Gershwin as a Minimalist.
All 3: CD/YT
- Morton Gould – 6 concertos including the following on CD/YT: Chorale & Fugue in Jazz (1934); Dance Variations (1952); Interplay (1943); Inventions (1953): popular and contemporary mix.
- Howard Hanson – Concerto (1948): music that is ruthless, jazzy, similar to Gershwin in haste. – CD/YT

Jennifer Higdon – Concerto (2006): music that is immensely colorful and highly approachable. See YT.

Hoiby, Lee – No. 1 (1958): should find a place in the repertory - CD/YT; No. 2 (1980): Hoiby writes with enormous assurance and craft – CD.

Ezra Laderman – No 1 (1978: about battles and reconciliations between tonal and non-tonal – YT

John LaMontaine – Birds of Paradise (1964); No. 1 (1958); No. 4 (1989): immediately appeals. All CD/YT

Benjamin Lees – No. 1 (1955): a sense of adventure is in the air; No. 2 (1966): brooding intensity, tough minded music. CD/YT. Etudes (1974), CD/YT; Variations (1975), YT.

Lowell Liebermann – No. 1 (1983), CD; No. 2 (1992): among the best works of its kind in this century – CD/YT; No. 3 (2006): arresting effects abound; Paganini Variations (2000): a very remarkable piece – YT.

Peter Mennin – Concerto (1958): music of expressive power and poetic distinction – CD/YT

John Musto – No. 1 (2005); No. 2 (2006): immensely likeable, highly individual, well worth hearing . . . both exude an attractively American urban sensibility. Both on CD/YT

Andrew Norman – Split (2015): audacious, exhilarating and exhausting!

David Ott – No. 2 (1995): sonorous and bravura, attaining eloquent beauty – YT/1st mvt. only

Carter Pann – No. 1 (1997) Grammy nominated – CD/YT; Concerto Logic (2008) YT/2nd mvt. only

Stephen Paulus – No.1 (2002); No. 2 (2005) – both on YT

George Perle - No. 1 (1990): its heart is in its brief, eloquent slow movement, a 5½ min. piece of musical poetry – CD/YT; No. 2 (1992): brisk, lucid, clean-lined, spiky, witty, sparkling – CD; Concertino (1979) and Serenade No. 3 1983) on YT.

Vincent Persichetti – Concerto (1962); commended to any pianist seeking a crowd-pleasing change of pace from the other big American concertos – CD/YT

Tobias Picker – Keys to the City (1983): sparkling, brash, rhythmically vital – CD/YT

Quincy Porter – Concerto, 2 pianos (1953). Pulitzer Prize. “A well-bred piece of music.” – CD/YT

Walter Piston – Concerto, 2 pianos (1959): all clarity and light, with a jazzy finale. – CD/YT

Kevin Puts – Night (2008): before long, the pianist needs more hands than nature provides. The solo writing is virtuosic. YT

Bernard Rands – Concerto (2013): subtlety of color, sophisticated compositional craft, protean interlay between soloist and ensemble, refreshingly free of formulas.

Marga Richter – Landscapes of the Mind (1976): no one has blended East and West with such imaginatively brilliant osmosis; Concerto piano and strings (1955) – LP

Wallingford Riegger – Variations (1953): the variations have a quality that so few equivalent twelve-tone works have. There isn't a dull moment in the ever-changing brilliant bantering. – CD/YT

Ned Rorem – No. 2 (1950): endless stretches of sensitive lyricism, brilliant orchestration, and absorbing musical thought....an absurdly neglected standard repertoire item - CD; Concerto for Left Hand (1991): sensuous but lucid textures, singing melodies, swirling string figurations, lovely harmonies, and joy in manipulating sound – CD/YT; Concerto 6 Mvts. (1970) – CD/YT

William Schuman – Concerto (1942); spartan, biting energy, unmistakably American as the echo of wide-open prairies – CD/YT

Roger Sessions – Concerto (1956): there is passion but always of a judicious, balanced sort that might be better described as thoughtful feeling or feelingful thought – CD/YT

Robert Starer – No. 3 (1974): a language that is individual and impressive, pungently kaleidoscopic in its contrast of brilliance and intimacy in contemporary terms; Concerto 2 pianos (1996) – CD

William Sydeman – Concerto, 4 hds (1967): The results are refreshing, fascinating and continually surprising – YT

Ben Weber – Concerto (1961): flirting with serial technique . . . completely traditional – CD/YT

Dan Welcher – Concerto “Shiva’s Drum” (1993): a first movement that was a riot of exotic color, bristling rhythms, a shimmering, introspective second movement and a dashing, pulsating finale.

Charles Wuorinen – No. 1 (1966); No. 3 (1983); No. 4 (2004) – all on CD/YT

Ellen Taaffe Zwilich – Concerto (1986); consistently thoughtful, with no apparent vapidty soiling fetching musical ideas – CD/YT; Millenium Fantasy (2000) – CD; Peanuts Gallery (1996) – CD/YT; Shadows (2011); Triple Concerto (1995) – CD/YT

Samuel Zyman – Concerto (1988): ...sheer breath-taking bravura. – YT

A Selection of Student Concertos from *The American Piano Concerto Compendium*
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Anderson, Garland (1933-2001) *Concertino*. American Music Edition ©1969

Commissioned by the Richmond Symphony Orchestra as a contest piece for children under 12.

Asch, Anna (1933-) A composer of 12 one-movement concertinos, Anna Asch wrote for intermediate and early advanced students. Orchestrations were created by her husband, Albert Asch. A complete description of each concertino can be found in Beres and Hahn. Some are on YouTube

Borden, David (1938-) *Trudymusic*. CMP Library Edition, 1967 - 4 mins. Available from 4 libraries. Advanced high school.

Boykin, A. Helen (1904-1997) *Concerto in F*. AMP, published 1986. Many YouTube performances

Eckstein, Maxwell (1905-1974) *Concerto for Young Americans*. CFischer ©1955 - 8 mins. Available for orchestra or band

Frank, Marcel (1906-1985) *Youth Concerto in E-flat Major* - H. Elkan, ©1933 - 11 mins. 1st performance with Lansdowne (PA) Symphony; Henri Elkan, Diana Cusmina (12-yr old pianist from Riverton, NJ)

Gould, Elizabeth (1904-1995) *Games (miniature concerto for a young pianist and orchestra)* MS -1964. Available from Univ of MI, Columbus State Univ (OH)

Kasschau, Howard (1913-1994) *Concerto Americana* - Schroeder & Gunther - ©1950 - 10 mins. YouTube
Concerto in C - Schroeder & Gunther, 1940, 7 mins. YouTube
Country Concerto - GSchirmer, 1971 - 10 mins. YouTube
Legend of Sleepy Hollow - GSchirmer, 1964 - 10 mins.

Koch, Frederick (1923-2005) *Ballad*, 1964 - 10 mins. High School level, Class A

Kraehenbuehl, David (1932-1997) *A Short Piano Concerto for Young People* - CFischer, 1978
Rhapsody in Rock - CFischer, 1974 - 7 mins.

Martin, Vernon (1928-) *A Children's Piano Concerto*, piano and strings. MS - 1959 - 5 mins.

Mier, Martha (1936-) *Concerto in Classical Style*, piano and strings. Alfred; Intermediate. YouTube

Pelz, Walter (1908-1962) *Sentimental Rhapsody* - JFischer, ©1938, 4-5 mins. Publisher note: This jolly piece was written at the suggestion of Guy Maier who has performed it on numerous occasions. Mr. Maier characterizes it as a miniature *Rhapsody in Blue*, "grateful, pianistic, and not all difficult to play." The piano part demands a dashing, buoyantly rhythmic style of performance, but it should be excellently adapted to young pianists playing with school or local orchestras

Peskanov, Alexander (1953-) Ukraine (US = 1973)
Concerto No. 1, for piano and strings. Willis - Intermediate
Concerto No. 2, "Ukrainian Concerto" - Intermediate level
Concerto No. 3, "Maryland Concerto" - Elementary
Concerto No. 4 - Elementary
Concerto No. 5 - Intermediate
Concerto No. 6, "Royal Concerto" - Elementary
Concerto No. 7, "Anniversary Concerto" - Intermediate
Concerto No. 8, "Spring Concerto" - Alfred - Intermediate

Concerto No. 9, "Boston Concerto" - Elementary
Concerto No. 10, "Italian Concerto" - Elementary
Concert Fantasy (Concerto No. 11) - Intermediate
Concerto No. 12, "Gypsy Concerto" - Intermediate
Concerto No. 13, "Azery Rhapsody" - Advanced

All of the above concertos are available from Classical Video Concepts unless otherwise listed. All may be seen and heard on YouTube. Website: peskanov.com = Classical Video Concepts

Rahbee, Dianne (1938-) **Concertino No.1, "Peasant Folk Dance,"** Op. 82, with chamber or string orchestra. FJH Music - 1997. CD and YouTube. Composer note: technically comparable to Haydn's D Major Concerto. Its energy and lighthearted spirit are meant to excite the imagination of the performer and the listener. The musical content introduces twentieth century vocabulary in an approachable fashion, and stretches the ear gently in new directions.

Concertino No. 2, Op. 113. piano, string orchestra, and percussion. MS, 2001. CD

Concertino No. 3, Op. 145, piano and string orchestra or string quartet

Concerto No. 2, Op. 134. MS, 23 mins. CD and YouTube

Rhapsodie "Urartu", Op. 80. MS, 1996 - YouTube

Website: dgoolkasianrahbee.com

Rollin, Catherine (1952-) **Concerto Romantique** - Alfred - 12 mins.

Commissioned by the Southwest District of the Ohio Music Teachers Association. Intended for the intermediate piano student, composed in the Romantic style of Schumann and Chopin.

Thompson, John (1889-1963) **Concerto in D minor,** piano and band. Willis, 1957.

Tonsing, Evan (1939-) **Concerto for a Young Pianist,** Op. 40 - Accura, 1968 - 5 mins.

Vandall, Robert (1944-2017) **Concerto in G Major** - Alfred - 30 mins.

Van Schouwen, David (1963-) 5 piano concertos:

Concerto No. 1 in F Major, for piano and strings - 1972 - 10 mins.

Concerto No. 3 in C minor, for piano and strings - 1973 - 10 mins.

Concerto No. 4 in G Major, for piano and strings - 1977 - 12 mins.

Concerto No. 5 in D minor, for piano and strings - 1978 - 12 mins.

Concerto No. 6 in C Major, for piano and chamber orchestra - 1979 - 12 mins.

Wagner, Joseph (1900-1974) **Concertino in G minor** - Robert B. Brown Music Co. ©1935 - 12 mins.

Available from 12 Libraries

Wheeler, Gayneyl (1916-2000) **Concerto** - CFischer, 1975. Review by George Anson, "New Piano Music," *Clavier*, March 1975: This full-fledged work in three movements is a splendid addition to the student concerto literature. Intermediate level.

Williams, Jean (1876-1965) 5 piano concertos:

Concerto No. 1 in A minor - Schroeder & Gunther ©1942

Concerto No. 2 in F Major - Schroeder & Gunther ©1943

Concerto No. 3 in C Major - Schroeder & Gunther ©1946

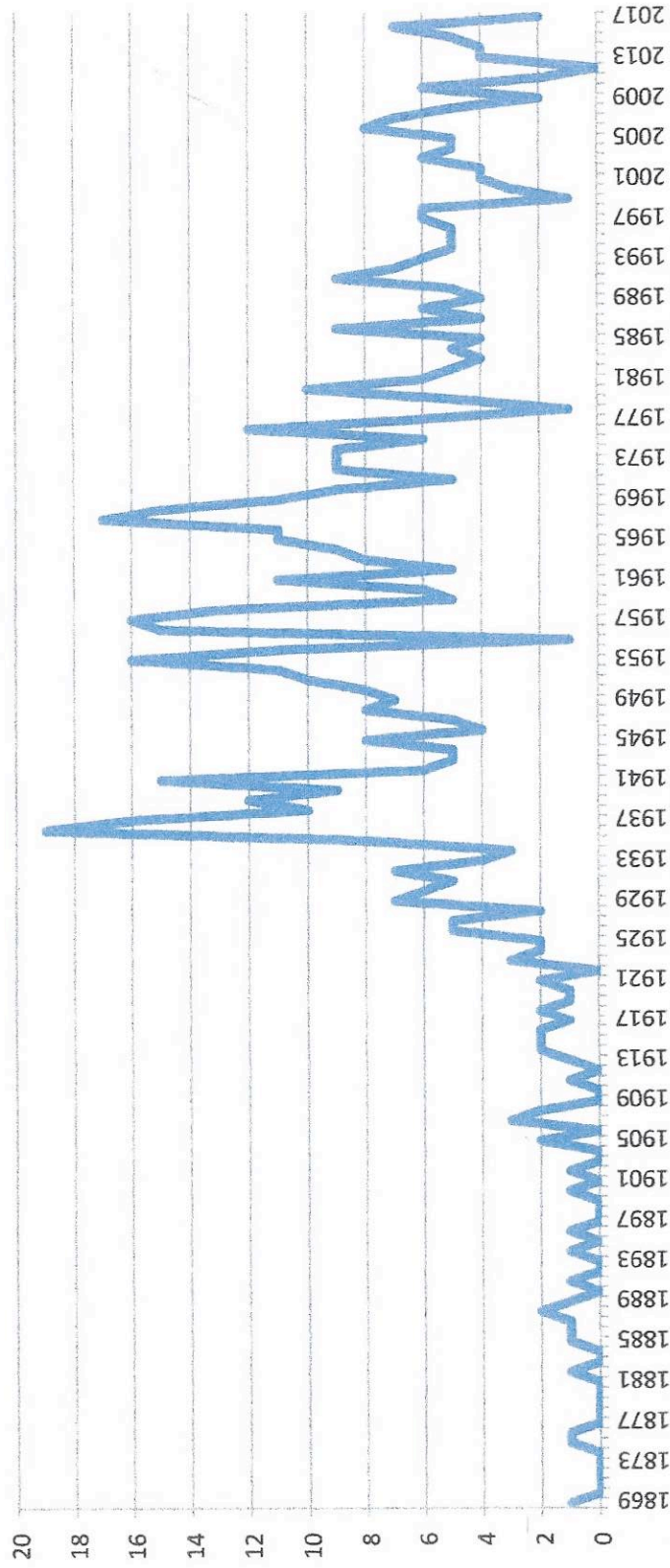
Concerto No. 4 in C Major - AMP ©1950

Concerto No. 5 in G Major - Schroeder & Gunther ©1955

See also: Beres, Karen and Christopher Hahn. *The Pianist's Guide to Standard Teaching and Performance Concertos*. Alfred Music, 2017.

First Performances of American Piano Concertos

{1869 - 2017}



American Piano Concertos by Women Composers

Allan, Esther	Haimsohn, Naomi	Pietsch, Edna Frieda
Alrich, Alexis	Harris, Margaret	Ponce, Ethel
Alston, Lettie	Harris, Zudie	Price, Florence B
Anderson, Beth	Higdon, Jennifer	Putney, Lucyellen
Archer, Kimberly	Hill, Edie	Rahbee, Dianne
Asch, Anna	Hopekirk, Helen	Ralston, Frances Marion
Auerbach, Lera	Howe, Mary	Ran, Shulamit
Austin, Dorothea	Jakus, Stephanie	Rapaport, Eda
Babits, Linda	James, Dorothy	Restelle, Josephine
Bacon, Ruth	Kaeyer, Sigrid	Richter, Marga
Ballou, Esther W	Kahmann, Chesley	Rollin, Catherine
Barbour, Florence N	Kessler, Minuetta	St. John, Kathleen
Barthelson, Joyce H	Koelling, Eloise	Schonthal, Ruth
Bauer, Marion	Kolb, Barbara	Schwendinger, Laura
Beach, Amy	Korn, Clara Anna	Shatin, Judith
Beck, Ruth	Krenek, Gladys N	*Shaw, Caroline
Bielawa, Lisa	*Lash, Hannah	Shrago, Annabelle
Bond, Victoria	Laufer, Beatrice	Shreve, Susan E
Boykin, A. Helen	Leon, Tania	Sierra, Arlene
Branscombe, Gena	Leonard, Clair	Silver, Sheila
Bringuer, Estela	Lissow Oncley, Alma	Smith, Julia
Britain, Radie	Lyon, Norma	Steiner, Gitta
Brook, Gwendolyn	Lyra, Sister M.	Strickland, Lily Teresa
Carlos, Wendy	Mana-Zucca	Suesse, Dana
Chernik, Evelyn Klamicer	Marcus, Adabelle Gross	Summers, June
Clarke, Rosemary	Matthews, Blanche Moore	Talma, Louise
Cole, Ulric	Mayne, Kathleen	Thome, Diane
Cowles, Cecil Marion	McCollin, Frances	Tower, Joan
Diemer, Emma Lou	Meneely-Kyder, Sarah	Twombly, Mary Lynn
Dillon, Frances (Fannie)	Meysenburg, Sr. Agnes	Van Appledorn, Mary J
Dudley, Marjorie E	Mier, Martha	Vanderstock, Sr. Mary O
DuPage, Florence	Moore, Mary Carr	Van de Vate, Nancy
Dushkin, Dorothy	Newlin, Dika	Ware, Harriet
Fine, Vivian	Ohlson, Marion	Wheeler, Gayneyl
Firestone, Elizabeth	Owen, Blythe	Williams, Jean
Galbraith, Nancy	Palmer, Ruth Marguerite	Witni, Monica
Gaston, Marjorie Dean	Panetti, Joan	Wright, Nannie Louise
Glanville-Hicks, Peggy	Perelman, Dora	Yaysnoff, June
Gould, Elizabeth	Perry, Julia	Zaimont, Judith Lang
Hadden, Frances Roots	Pickhardt, Ione	Zwillich, Ellen Taafe

American Piano Concertos by African – American Composers

Adams, H. Leslie	*Ellington, Duke	Reeves, Christopher
Atkins, Russell	Fox, Donal	*Shirley, Donald
Beckon, Lettie M.	Hailstork, Adolphus	Still, William Grant
Bonds, Margaret Allison	Harris, Margaret	Walker, George T
Cunningham, Arthur	Johnson, James P.	Wilson, Olly
Dickerson, Roger Donald	Perry, Julia	
Elie, Justin	Price, Florence B.	*Not in book