

Piano Music by Composers of African, Latin American, and/or Asian Heritage (8/15/20)

Hi all,

I've been putting together a list of piano music by African, African Diaspora, Latinx, and Asian composers with an emphasis on late elementary and intermediate level works.

This list is a work in progress. If you have pieces or composers you think should be added to the list (particularly elementary and intermediate level works) or notice typos, misjudgments of leveling, etc. I appreciate your feedback. I would also love to add some indigenous composers if you have suggestions.

Special thanks to the members of "The Art of Piano Pedagogy" for their help in compiling this list!

-Benjamin Steinhardt

I. African and African Diaspora Composers

Most of these names are completely new to me, but I've been thrilled with both the quality and originality of these works. I've used the five volume compendium by William Nyaho Chapman called, "Piano Music of Africa and the African Diaspora" as a guide. Works included in this collection are in [blue](#).

https://www.edition-peters.com/product/piano-music-of-africa-and-the-african-diaspora-volume-1/9780193868229?fbclid=IwAR2JZ6-Oe2GCz_2k0Uc6hVef_q-azVbGqQk_Bi2h5TB8dn5xeOyVwkBUByo

a. African Composers

- Fred Onovwerosuoke (Nigerian-American)

<https://www.amazon.com/Twenty-four-Studies-African-Rhythms-I/dp/1934621226>

Twenty-Four Studies in African Rhythms (Advanced)

- Robert Maweuna Kwami (Ghana)

[Piano Piece n. 2, Call and Response \(early intermediate\)](#)

- Bangambula Vindu (Congo)

[Lullaby \(early intermediate\)](#)

- J.H. Kwabena Nketia (Ghana)

[Builsa Work Song \(early intermediate\)](#)

- Christian Onyeji (Nigeria)

- Ufie III (intermediate)
 - Oga (intermediate)
 - Echoes of Traditional Life (early advanced)
 - Chineke Diri Ekele (early advanced)
- Joshua Uzoigwe (Nigeria)
 - Nigerian Dance 1 (intermediate)
 - Talking Drums: Ukom (advanced)
 - Talking Drums: Egwu Amala (advanced)
 - Talking Drums: Ilulu (advanced)
- Halim El-Dabh (Egypt)
 - Soufiane (late elementary)
 - Basseet (intermediate)
 - Nim Nawakht (intermediate)
 - Coma Dance (advanced)
- Gamal Adel-Rahim (Egypt)
 - Variations of an Egyptian Folksong (early advanced)
- Isak Roux (South African-German)
 - African Minatures for Young Pianists: Kwela no. 1 (late elementary)
 - Preludes in African Rhythm: Lullaby (early intermediate)
 - Preludes in African Rhythm: Township Guitar (advanced)
- J.H. Kwabena Nketia (Ghana)
 - Volta Fantasy (intermediate)
 - Atwimu (early advanced)
 - Dagarti Work Song (early advanced)
 - Builsa Work Song (early advanced)
- Akin Euba (Nigeria)
 - Igba Kerin (intermediate)
 - Igba Kinni (intermediate)
 - Scenes from Traditional Life No. 1 (advanced)
 - African Dance (advanced)
- Bongani Ndodana-Breen (South Africa)
 - Flowers in the Sand (advanced)
- Emmanuel Gyimah Labi (Ghana)
 - The Lotus (advanced)
 - Pappoe - The Pineapple (advanced)
 - Earthbeats op. 22 (advanced)
- Ali Osman (Sudan-Egypt)

Afro Arab Blues (advanced)
Suite for Piano (advanced)

b. African Diaspora composers

- Florence Price (U.S.)

<http://www.florenceprice.org>

https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Price%2C_Florence

https://classicalondemand.com/catalogsearch/result/index/?cat=0&p=1&q=florence%20price&fbclid=IwAR0FnTm-UcytdJWAYQHx1rXJQ8qatjm39O3XqyKQvXqvvexer5zonW-_s

https://www.tfront.com/p-409629-album-of-piano-pieces-edited-by-barbara-garvey-jackson.aspx?fbclid=IwAR3PA-HyBT1KqyoQcJxdk_HZBqeRs9TWMRECgfhQhLBalsuC5h1f276eHgg

[Ticklin' Toes \(early intermediate\)](#)

The Goblin and the Mosquito (intermediate)

Sketches in Sepia (late Intermediate)

[Silk Hat and Walking Cane \(Intermediate\)](#)

At the Cotton Gin (intermediate)

Bayou Dance (intermediate)

[Nimble Feet \(early advanced\)](#)

Sonata in E minor (advanced) the slow movement is very beautiful

- Ulysses Kay (U.S.)

<https://tredwellsmusic.com/ten-short-essays-ulysses-kay-piano-solo-songbook-sheet-music-out-of-print>

[Tender Thought \(Late Elementary\)](#)

[Invention no. 2 \(Intermediate\)](#)

Six Essays (Intermediate to Advanced)

- Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (British)

https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Coleridge-Taylor,_Samuel

Deep River from 24 Negro Melodies (early advanced)

Papillion (advanced)

- William Grant Still (U.S.)

<http://www.williamgrantstillmusic.com/SheetMusicCollections.htm>

Music for Children:

Ring Play (late elementary)
Five Animal Sketches (late elementary to intermediate)
Marionette
“Blues” from Lenox Avenue (late intermediate)
Dance from “Deserted Plantation (late intermediate)
Quit Dat Fool’nish (late intermediate)

“Summerland” from “Three Visions” (early Advanced)
[The Bamboula \(advanced\)](#)

- Valerie Capers (U.S.)

<https://www.amazon.com/Portraits-Jazz-Valerie-Composer-10-May-2012/dp/B011T8278O>

[Sweet Mr. Jelly Roll \(early Intermediate\)](#)
[The Monk \(early intermediate\)](#)
Ella Scats the Little Lamb (intermediate)
Billie’s Songs (intermediate)

- Nkeiru Okoye (Nigerian American)

www.nkeiruokoye.com

[Dusk- \(early intermediate\)](#)
[Dancing Barefoot in the Rain - \(intermediate\)](#)

- Hale Smith - His complete collection, “Faces of Jazz” is sadly out of print (U.S.)

[Off-Beat Shorty \(late elementary\)](#)
[My Scarf is Yellow \(late Elementary\)](#)

- Wallace M. Cheatham (U.S.)

[Prelude No. 1 “Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho” \(intermediate\)](#)
[Prelude No. 2 “Poor Mourner’s Got a Home” \(intermediate\)](#)
[Prelude No. 3 “My Lord Didn’t it Rain” \(early advanced\)](#)

- Amadeo Roldan y Gardes (Afro-Cuban)

[Preludio Cubano \(intermediate\)](#)

- Alain Pierre Pradel (Guadalupe)

[Pomme Cannelle \(intermediate\)](#)
Chateau de Cendre (advanced)

- John W. Work III (U.S.)

[At a Certain Church \(intermediate\)](#)
[Take Me Back \(early advanced\)](#)
Sassafras (early advanced)

- Lettie Beckon Alston (U.S.)

Rhapsodies:

[Rhapsody No. 4 \(advanced\)](#)
Moods fo Piano (advanced)
Variations on “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing” (advanced)

- Eleanor Alberga (Jamaica)

[If the Silver Bird Could Speak \(intermediate\)](#)
For Whom (Spectrum 4)

<https://shop.abrsm.org/shop/prod/ABRSM-Spectrum-4/904887>

- Ludovic Lamothe (Haiti)

[La Dangereuse \(early advanced\)](#)
La Habanera (early advanced)
Lisette (early advanced)
Ballade in A minor (advanced)

- Andres Luis Wheatley (Dominican Republic)

[Scherzino \(early advanced\)](#)

- Oswald Russell (Jamaica)

[Jamaican Dances no. 2 \(early advanced\)](#)
[Papillons \(early advanced\)](#)
[Humoresque No. 1 \(advanced\)](#)

- Margaret Bonds (U.S.)

Spiritual Suite: (Advanced)
Valley of the Bones
The Bells
[Troubled Water](#)

- Howard Swanson (U.S.)

[The Cuckoo \(early advanced\)](#)
[Cell Phone Blues \(early advanced\)](#)

- H. Leslie Adams (U.S.)

<http://composers.com/composition/twenty-six-etudes-solo-piano>

Piano Etudes, Part II (late intermediate-advanced)
[Etude in C# minor](#)

- Leon Bates (with Janet Vogt) (U.S.)

Piano Discoveries Method series (elementary)

- George Walker (U.S.)

[Prelude and Caprice \(advanced\)](#)

Piano Sonatas 1-5 (advanced)
Lyric, for piano (advanced)

- Oscar Peterson (U.S.)

Exercises, Minuets, Etudes, and Pieces (late elementary to early advanced)

<https://www.amazon.com/Oscar-Peterson-Exercises-Minuets-Etudes/dp/0634099795>

C. Ragtime/Turn of the Century Americans

- Scott Joplin (U.S.)

Late Intermediate:

Peacherine Rag
Weeping Willow
Something Doing
The Favorite
The Chysanthemum
Pleasant Moments
Country Club
Swipesy
Magnetic Rag
Solace

Early Advanced:

Leola
Palm Leaf
Bink's Waltz
Lily Queen
Paragon Rag
The Strenuous Life
The Sycamore
Rose Leaf Rag
Reflection Rag

Solace (advanced)

- James Scott

https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Scott,_James

Frog Legs Rag
Ophelia Rag
Sunburst Rag
Ragtime Oriole
Broadway Rag
Hilarity Rag

- Thomas "Blind Tom" Wiggins

https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Wiggins,_Thomas_%22Blind_Tom%22

Water in the Moonlight
March Timpani

- Nora Holt

<https://www.jwpepper.com/Negro-Dance/10016491.item>

Negro Dance

- Harry Thacker Burleigh

https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Burleigh,_Harry_Thacker

From the Southland (6 pieces)

- Nathaniel Dett (U.S.)

https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Dett,_Robert_Nathaniel

Juba (Dance) from “In the Bottoms” (early advanced)
“Honey (Humoresque)” from “The Bottoms” (intermediate)

III. Asian Composers and Folk Music

A. Asian Composers

- Yoshinao Nakada (Japan) (late elementary- intermediate)

Japanese Festival

<https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/title/japanese-festival-sheet-music/1586313>
<https://m.free-scores.com/free-sheet-music.php?CATEGORIE=70&compositeur=Yoshinao-Nakada&genre=Hymns20-20New20age>

- Akira Yuyama (Japan)

Confections: A Piano Sweet (early intermediate)

<https://www.amazon.com/Confections-Piano-Sweet-Akira-Yuyama/dp/4111784607>

- Koh-Ichi Hattori (Japan)
Concertino for Small Hands

- Naoko Ikeda (Japan)

<https://www.halleonard.com/search/search.action?keywords=NAOKO%20IKEDA&dt=item&resultsPerPage=96#products>

Japanese Impressions for Piano (early intermediate)
 Shoukei (early intermediate)
 Shoukei Book 2 (early to mid-intermediate)
 -Celestial Dreams (intermediate)
 Shooting Stars in Summer (late intermediate)
 A Melancholy Night (early intermediate)
 Celestial Dreams (intermediate)
 The Blue Bird: 7 Magical Solos (early intermediate)
 Duets in Color (intermediate)
 The Royal Seven:L 7 Piano Duets (intermediate)

- Haruo Asakawa (Japan)

12 Solmizations (Forest of Creation) (late intermediate-early advanced)

- Yasuji Kiyose (Japan)

Poem for Piano - 11 Pieces (early advanced to advanced)

- Takashi Yoshimatsu (Japan)

Pleiades Dances (intermediate to advanced)

- Toru Takemitsu (Japan)

Rain Tree Sketch (advanced)
 Rain Tree Sketch II (advanced)
 Les Yeux clos/ The Closed Eyes (advanced)

- Chee-Hwa Tan (Malaysian American)

<https://pianosafari.com/product/chee-hwa-tan-pack/>

A Children's Garden of Verses (late elementary)
 Circus Sonatinas (late elementary)
 Through the Window Pane (elementary)
 Windy Nights and Other Tales (intermediate)

- Grace Christus (U.S.)

<https://jadepressmusic.com>

Ahrirang - A Traditional Korean Folk Song (early intermediate)
 The Boogey-Man March (early intermediate)
 Childhood Snapshots (early intermediate)
 Chinese Folk Songs for Children (early intermediate)
 Four Indonesian Folk Songs (early intermediate)
 Two Indian Folk Songs (early intermediate)

A Chinese Lullaby (intermediate)
Elegy on Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star (intermediate)
Five Dances (intermediate)
L'Attitudes and Longitudes (intermediate)
Musette de Bretagne (intermediate)
Nosferatu's Tears (intermediate)
Piano Lesson Rag (intermediate)
River Song (intermediate)
San Bei Folk Song (intermediate)
Three Japanese Folk Songs (intermediate)
Toccata in 5 (intermediate)
Vals Corazon (intermediate)

- An-lung Huang (China)

https://www.alfred.com/a-chinese-festival-volume-1/p/00-ELM02002/?fbclid=IwAR1HYVdEfPU-rOZuBsK0_pXwnepF1iqLnU9byDx1LX1n3GDmyMZNFPwZzw

A Chinese Festival (late intermediate/early advanced)

- Tan Dun (China)

Eight Memories in Watercolor (intermediate to advanced)
Staccato Beans (intermediate) (ABRSM 5)

- Du Mingxin (China)

Dance of the Waterweeds (intermediate)

- Chen PeiXun (China)

Thunder in Drought Season (early advanced) (ABRSM Grade 8)
Four Pieces based on Cantonese Melodies: 1. Selling Sundry Goods (early advanced)
Ping Hu Qui Ye (Autumn Moon Over the Calm Lake) (early advanced)

- Chu Wanghua (China)

Kangding Love Song (late intermediate- early advanced) (ABRSM grade 7)
Sunflower (early advanced)

- He Luting (China)

A Buffalo Boy Playing His Small Flute (early advanced)
Berceuse (early advanced)
An Evening Get-together (early advanced)
The Cowherd's Flute (early advanced)

- Chen Yi

Singing in the Mountain (Spectrum 4)

<https://shop.abrsm.org/shop/prod/ABRSM-Spectrum-4/904887>

- Misook Kim (Korea)

<https://www.sejongculturalsociety.org/music/current/repertoire.php>

Dream of Blue Bird (intermediate)
Play Grown Up (elementary)
Maiden's Circle (elementary)
Kwejina (elementary)

- Heeyoung Yang (Korea)

<https://www.sejongculturalsociety.org/music/current/repertoire.php>

What Are You Doing Mr. Fox? (intermediate)
A Sweet Breeze (early advanced)

- Sonny Chua (Australia)

<https://www.sonnychua.com>

Assorted Fairies (late elementary-early intermediate)
A Day in the Life of T-Rex (late elementary)
Midnight Snack (late elementary)
Umi's Lullaby (late elementary)
Jive Turkey (elementary)
You Dirty Rat (intermediate)
A Day in the Life of the Dog (elementary)
Death By Pasta (late intermediate)
Lonesome Blues (elementary)
Rodeo (advanced)
Theme & Deviations (advanced)
Rapunzel, Let Down Your Hair (advanced)

- Siaw Kin Lee (Brunei-Canada)

Xu Lue - Teasing the Moon (Spectrum 4)

<https://shop.abrsm.org/shop/prod/ABRSM-Spectrum-4/904887>

- Alexina Louie (Canada)

O Moon (late intermediate)
Shooting Stars (intermediate)

- Vineet Panikkar (India)

Gulp! 10 short piano pieces for young pianists (late elementary/early intermediate)

- Travis Lohmann (U.S.)

Picking Daisies (intermediate)
Picking Lilacs (intermediate)
Picking Marigolds (intermediate)
Definitive Road (late intermediate)

- Ananda Sukarlan (Indonesia)

The Clarinetist and the Mousedeer (intermediate)
Gentle Darkness (intermediate) (Spectrum 4)

<https://shop.abrsm.org/shop/prod/ABRSM-Spectrum-4/904887>

B. Authentic Asian Folk Song Collections

- Indian Ragas edited by John Pitts

<https://pianoraag.wordpress.com/>

“Indian Ragas Made Easy” ranges from beginner to ABRSM 4

- Melodies of China arr. Zhang Zhao (late intermediate/advanced)

- Hal Leonard Folk Song Collections (intermediate)

Malay
Chinese
Japanese
Chinese
Korean

<https://www.halleonard.com/product/288420/malay-folk-songs-collection>

- Easter Preludes arr. Christopher Norton

<https://www.boosey.com/teaching/sheet-music/Eastern-Preludes-Collection/>

- Music From China series - Faber and Faber (young beginner to intermediate)

<https://www.boosey.com/teaching/sheet-music/Eastern-Preludes-Collection/>

- Gift of Asia arr. Emilie Lin (late elementary/early intermediate)

<https://www.amazon.com/Gifts-of-Asia/dp/1569398003>

C. Film, Video Game, Pop composers

- Koji Kondo (Super Mario, The Legend of Zelda)

<https://www.musicnotes.com/sheet-music/artist/koji-kondo>

- Yiruma (classical-pop crossover)

<https://www.amazon.com/Yiruma-Best-Reminiscent-Piano-Solo-Yiruma/dp/1480366110>

- Joe Hisaishi (film composer - Studio Ghibli)

<https://www.amazon.com/Joe-Hisaishi-Piano-Collection-Scores/dp/4285124823>

IV. Latin Composers

An amazing resource is the Brazilian Piano Institute:

<https://www.youtube.com/institutopianobrasileiro>

<http://www.institutopianobrasileiro.com.br>

- Villa-Lobos (Brazil)

https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Villa-Lobos,_Heitor

Brinquedo De Roda (The Toy Wheel) - (intermediate)
Suite Infantis 1 and 2 (intermediate to advanced)
Guia Practico (173 Folk Melodies) - (intermediate to advanced)
"Petizada" (Troupe of Naughty Boys) - (late elementary to intermediate)
A Prole Do Bebe (late intermediate-early advanced)
Francette and Pia (intermediate)
Carnival das Crinacas (intermediate)
Cirandinhas (Little Round Dances) - intermediate
Ten Pieces on Popular Children's Folk Tunes of Brazil (intermediate)

- Octavio Pinto (Brazil)

https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Pinto,_Octávio

Children's Festival: Little Suite for the Piano (late elementary to early intermediate)
Scenas Infantis (Intermediate-early advanced)

- Marlos Nobre (Brazil)

2 Ciclo Nordestino Op.13 (intermediate)

- Moema Craveiro Campos (Brazil)

Canotia nas teclas

- Ernesto Nazareth (Brazil)

http://www.ernestonazareth.com.br/en_a_obra_de_ernesto_nazareth.php?area=1 (free pdfs)

Ameno Rosedá (early advanced)
Coração que sente (early advanced)
Lamentos (Lament) - (early advanced)
Escorregando (Sliding) (early advanced)

- Ernst Mahle (Brazil)

The Cuckoo and the Donkey Concertino
Sonatina 1973
Vamos Maninha
As Melodias de Cecilia (late elementary to intermediate)

- Ginastera (Argentina)
 - Piezas infantiles (intermediate)
 - 12 American Preludes (late intermediate- early advanced)
 - Danzas Argentinas (early advanced to advanced)
 - Danzas Criollas (early advanced)

- Luis Gianneno (Argentina)
 - Musica para niños (intermediate)
 - Three Argentine Dances (intermediate)
 - Cinco pequeñas Piezas / Five Little Pieces (intermediate)
 - Villancico (intermediate)
 - Siete Piezas Infantiles / Seven Pieces for Children (late elementary to intermediate)

- Ariel Ramirez (Argentina)
 - <https://melos.com.ree>
 - 15 estudios para piano sobre ritmos y formas de la tradición musical argentina (intermediate-early advanced)

- Roque de Pedro (Argentina)
 - Dos Danzas Argentinas (advanced)

- Astor Piazzolla (Argentina)
 - Milonga Del Angel (late intermediate)
 - Ausencias (early advanced)
 - El Viaje (early advanced)
 - Retrato de Alfredo Gobbi (early advanced)

- Manuel M. Ponce (Mexico)
 - [https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Ponce, Manuel](https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Ponce,_Manuel)
 - 20 Easy Pieces for the Young Mexican Pianists (elementary)
 - Scherzino Mexicano (intermediate)
 - Intermezzo in E minor (intermediate)
 - Balada Mexicana (early advanced)
 - Romanza de Amor

- Ricardo Castro Herrera (Mexico)
 - [https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Castro%2C Ricardo](https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Castro%2C_Ricardo)
 - Douze Etudes Pour Piano d'apres Clementi op. 7 (intermediate - advanced)
 - Trois Pensées Musicales op. 8 (early advanced)
 - Impromptu op. 41
 - Nostalgia op. 44 (early advanced)

- Carlos Chavez (Mexico)

www.sheetmusicplus.com

Etudes, Sonatinas, Preludes, etc. (advanced)

- Mario Ruiz Armengol (Mexico)

33 Piezas Infantiles para piano (beginner to intermediate)
<http://www.mruizarmengol.com/index.html>