

**STUDENT PROGRAM NOTES**  
**March 22, 2020**

**I Like Eating Orange Gummy Bears-Five finger muscle builder**  
**Words created by James Leonard**

Orange Gummy Bears are James' favorite flavor gelatinous snack that he refuses to share with his brother and sister; they can have the red and purple ones.

Orange: A single syllable color that does not rhyme with any other word combines with "Gummy Bears" to make a great beat for both hands to pound out a short scale.

**Student Biography**

The pianist, James Leonard, is 5 years old and has been taking piano lessons for 7 months. He loves music and being a performer in front of his family. James plans to spend this summer swimming, riding his bike, and playing with his little brother and sister in the family's back yard.

**Acknowledgement**

Thank you to my momma and dada for helping me get introduced to music and for paying for my piano lessons. Special thanks to my dada for making me practice even though I never want to. ~James Leonard~

**A Little Song - Jon George**

Jonathan George was born in Dallas, Texas. His entire family was musical and that is how he learned music.

This piece is called A Little Song because it is short and it sounds like a song that you could sing.

**Parent biography**

Jack's mom, Rachel works as an operations administrator/account manager/accounts receivables for her family's business, Servant Fire. The business is located in Nashville, TN. but she works here, in Grand Rapids!

Rachel took piano lessons for 10 years growing up, and is excited that her son, Jack has chosen to take lessons too! She likes to box and run to stay active and enjoys reading and cooking/baking. She especially enjoys spending time with Jack by playing card and board games, building lego sets, and having pizza parties and movie nights! "I am a mom to one very special boy!"

**Student Biography**

The pianist, Jack Brooks, is 8 years old, goes to Knapp Forest Elementary School and has studied piano for about four and a half months. Jack likes to play video games and loves his four cats: Karen, Kevin, Kit and Elliot.

**Acknowledgement**

I would like to thank my grandparents for my lessons, my mom for driving me to lessons and helping me practice at my house. ~Jack Brooks~

## **Roller Coaster Ride - Melody Bober**

Melody Bober has been active in music education for over 25 years. As a composer, her goal is to create exciting and challenging pieces that are strong teaching tools to promote a life-long love, understanding, and appreciation for music.

The name of this piece, Roller Coaster, is significant because the notes go up and down like a roller coaster ride and it is fun to play.

### **Student biography**

The primary pianist, **Gloria Smigiel**, is 7 years old, in 1<sup>st</sup> grade at Crestwood Elementary school and has studied piano for 9 months. Gloria enjoys basketball, reading, and gymnastics. This summer she is looking forward to going to grandma and grandpa's house with her cousins.

### **Acknowledgement**

I wish to thank my mom and dad and Mrs. Sherry for teaching me piano.

~Gloria Smigiel~

### **Parent biography**

**Katherine Smigiel**, graduated from Davenport University with a Masters in Business Administration, major in Human Resource Management. Katherine has been working in the Human Resources profession for 14 years, and is currently a Director of HR Operations for a large logistics and supply chain organization, and has two children, Gloria, 7 and Philip, 3.

Katherine studied piano in childhood for 5 years and is enjoying helping her daughter learn to play as well. She enjoys reading, gardening, and staying active through running, biking and general fitness activities.

## **The Elephant from The Carnival of the Animals - Camille Saint-Saëns**

Camille Saint-Saens was born in Paris, France and lived from 1835 to 1921, during the Romantic Period of music. Camille Saint-Saens was most famous for his symphonic poems and opera, Samson et Delilah.

The name of this piece, The Elephant, is significant because you play heavy and hard, low on the piano to make it sound like an elephant is tromping through the jungle.

### **Leaping Leprechauns on London Bridge - Sherry VanOveren**

The name of this piece , Leaping Leprechauns on London Bridge, is significant because when you listen to the song, it sounds like leprechauns dancing around. It sounds like that because of the staccatos sounding like jumping, the eighth notes sounding like running, and the dynamics adding to both of these.

### **Student biography**

The pianist ,**Timothy Barnes**, is 8 years old, in 3rd grade at Thornapple elementary school and has studied piano for 4 years. Timothy enjoys music, nature, legos, skiing, theatre, reading and history.

This summer he is looking forward to Camp Roger, Civic theatre camp, and going to the Smoky Mountains.

### **Acknowledgement**

I want to thank my mom for her care and support in helping me to learn to play the piano and present this music. ~Timothy Barnes~

### **Parent biography**

**Sarah Barnes** graduated from Hope College with a major in Language Arts for Elementary and an Education Music minor. She is a stay at home mom and a "professional volunteer". She has played piano for all but 6 years of her life and flute for all but 11. Sarah directs the Chorister choir at Ada Congregational Church. She is has been Co-Chair for Cultural Arts Committee at Thornapple Elementary for 3 years, and VBS planning committee, Christian Education Board member, and teacher at Ada CC. Sarah enjoys reading, crafting, gardening, organizing, downhill skiing, and playing with the family dog, Poppy and exploring the outdoors with her family. She has 2 boys, Jake (13) and Timothy (8.5).

## **Video Game Master - Melody Bober**

**Melody Bober** is a composer who enjoys creating piano pieces that help her students learn and love music. Ms. Bober is currently a church pianist and music director who is always in great demand to give lectures and workshops all over North America.

The name of this piece, **Video Game Master**, is significant because it sounds fast and busy like a video game. It starts out fast and then gets slower as a video game would once you got into playing it. At the end, the music races up the piano then drops, as if the game is over.

### **Student biography**

The pianist, **Avery Riebel**, is 10 years old and in 5th grade at Central Woodlands School. Avery has studied piano with Ms. Sherry for 4 years. In her free time, Avery enjoys practicing and competing in gymnastics meets, hanging out with friends, playing with her dogs and spending time with her family. This summer, she is looking forward to going camping on Lake Michigan and in Mackinac, as well as traveling to the Outer Banks in North Carolina for a family reunion.

### **Acknowledgement**

I wish to thank my mom for driving me to my piano lessons and both of my parents for supporting me in playing the piano. ~Avery Riebel~

## **The Golden Wedding - Gabriel-Marie/Arranged by Carol Matz**

**Gabriel Marie** was born in Paris, France on January 8, 1852. There he studied at the Conservatoire de Paris and held a prominent position in the local musical world. He died unexpectedly on August 29, 1928. His works included *La Cinquantaine*, "The Golden Wedding" which was originally written for cello and piano. From that original, an octet, and various other arrangements were created. Present day composer and arranger, Carol Matz arranged this piece for piano duet.

The name, **La Cinquantaine**, "The Golden Wedding", is significant because it takes you back in time when celebrations, like a wedding, included formal ball room dancing. While listening to the music, you can imagine couples dancing around the room with joy!

## **Dragon Rock - S. VanOveren**

Dragon Rock begins in D position - "D" for Dragon of the Dragon note sequence from the Piano In Action Book Series. It's a fast rock tempo and mainly loud like a rock band would sound.

### **Student biography**

The pianist, **Faith Antonini**, is 9 years old, in the 3rd grade at Knapp Forest Elementary School and has studied the piano for almost 2 years. Faith enjoys "Girls on the Run", softball, creating games and birthday cards. She also loves sledding, ice skating and building snowmen. Spring break, Faith is looking forward to going to Chicago with her family.

### **Acknowledgement**

Thank you you to mom and dad for helping me practice, taking me to piano and encouraging me when it's hard ~Faith Antonini~

## **Spring Storm - Melody Bober**

**Melody Bober** was born in the USA and is a current composer and music teacher. Ms. Bober is most famous for creating challenging pieces that are strong teaching tools which promote a life long love and understanding of music.

The name of this piece is **Spring Storm**, which describes the song perfectly. It starts dark and fast, like a spring storm that comes out of nowhere. Then, the piece gets lighter but again turns dark. It finishes with a bright cheerful end, like sunshine after a spring thunderstorm.

### **Student Biography**

The pianist, Jack Riebel, is 12 years old and in the 7th Grade at Central Middle School. Jack has studied piano with Ms. Sherry for 3 years. In his free time, Jack enjoys playing soccer, futsal, hanging out with his friends, rock climbing and camping. This summer, Jack is looking forward to playing soccer, going to soccer camp, camping with friends and family as well as going to the Outer Banks in North Carolina with his extended family.

### **Acknowledgement**

I would like to thank my parents for taking time out of their day to bring me to practice and to support me in my musical education. ~Jack Riebel~

## **Bless Us Now This Day - Douglas Wagner**

**Douglas Wagner** was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1952 and now lives in Indianapolis, Indiana. Wagner is most famous for his variety of music compositions--choir, orchestra, handbells, church etc.--and is an internationally recognized ASCAP award-winning composer.

The name of this piece, **Bless Us Now This Day**, summarizes a calling out to God, which is heard throughout the song. The song's message revolves around the hope of bringing peace and healing into life. The Lord is praised for His love and blessings that enrich peoples' lives and renew their spirits every day. ~Jack Wildes~

### **Parent Biography**

**Gregg Wildes** earned a Ph.D. in engineering from the University of Texas (undergrad at Michigan) and is a business and technology leader at Dorner Works, an innovative small technology business in Grand Rapids. Gregg is a technology and music geek having played trumpet up through high school, then sang in the University of Michigan Men's Glee Club, the Austin Opera chorus, Grand Rapids Symphony chorus, and Ada Congregational Church chancel choir. He enjoys being a Dad to two great sons, meeting new people, serving others, music, his wife's dry sense of humor, and goofing around with friends and family.

## **Homeward Bound - Jay Althouse**

The arranger, **Jay Althouse**, was born in Denver, Pennsylvania in 1951 and currently resides in Raleigh, North Carolina. Althouse is most famous for his collaboration with Alfred Music and choral pieces and cantatas. He has been a regular recipient of ASCAP music composer awards.

The name of this piece, **Homeward Bound**, represents the longing that a traveler describes after being away from home for a long time. The dynamic transitions within the song evoke specific feelings. The traveler's conflicting perception of returning home is evinced by the lyrical shifts between nostalgic anticipation and passionate opposition.

### **Student biography**

The vocalist, **Jack Wildes**, just turned 18 years old, is a senior at Rockford High School, and has started taking voice lessons at Piano In Action this year. Jack has played the trumpet in band and enjoys playing soccer and basketball. He volunteers with the Rockford Interact Club and participates in the Ada Congregational Church youth group and chancel choir. This summer, Jack is looking forward to being with family and friends and making the most of his free time before moving to college in Ann Arbor this fall.

## Acknowledgement

I would like to extend my gratitude to my parents for their support of my music career through band and choir. I thank them for making it possible for me to be a part of Piano In Action this year. ~Jack Wildes~

### Sonata in C Major - W. A. Mozart

**Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart** was born in January 1756, in Salzburg, Austria. He was one of six children but only he and his sister "Nannerl" survived infancy.

He wrote his first symphony when he was only eight-years-old. In all, **Mozart** composed more than 600 **pieces** of music and is widely considered to be one of the greatest composers in the history of Western music.

Among those pieces were 18 piano Sonatas which were given "K." numbers in reference to Köchel, the cataloguer. A low **K number** indicates a piece written when **Mozart** was very young, while a high **number** indicates a piece written at the end of his life.

This Sonata in C Major is K. 545 which indicates that he wrote this particular Sonata later in his life. The first movement of a Sonata is typically in Sonata-Allegro form which means there are three parts: Exposition, Development, and Recapitulation. During the Exposition, the main themes of the piece are introduced. In the Development section of a sonata, the thematic material is changed. In this sonata Mozart puts the development in the dominant minor key and uses the scales and arpeggio thematic material from the Exposition in several different keys. The Recapitulation begins in the subdominant major key and eventually modulates back to the key of C Major.

## Student biography

The pianist, **Aidan Zarou**, is 16 years old and attends Forest hills Central High School as a Sophomore. Aidan has studied piano for 10 years. He enjoys video games and basketball. This summer he is looking forward to - hopefully - going to Florida.

## Acknowledgement

I would like to thank my mom for inspiring me to do piano since I was very young and for bugging me to practice even when I don't want to. ~Aidan Zarou~

### Rodeo Barrel Racing - Martha Mier

Martha Mier was born in Florida in 1936. She is an independent piano teacher and composer. Her educational music is played around the world. Her Jazz, Rags & Blues and Romantic Impressions books are her most popular series.

The name of this piece, Rodeo Barrel Racing, is significant because it reminds me of horses going around barrels fast. Martha Mier uses 16th notes in a pattern that goes around the thumb which is like the barrel only on the piano. Her tempo is "Fast with Energy" which is what a horse and rider needs to be in a barrel race.

## Student biography

The pianist, **Juliana Gole**, is 12 years old, in 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Central Woodlands and has studied piano for 6 years. Juliana enjoys volleyball, baking, reading and swimming. This summer she is looking forward to Camp Henry.

## Acknowledgement

I wish to thank my mom and dad for all of their help and support and for bringing me to lessons and paying for them. ~Juliana Gole~

## Birch Tree Rag Duet - Robert D. Vandall

**Robert D. Vandall** was born in 1944 and lived in New Philadelphia, Ohio. He died not too long ago in February of 2017. He was the owner and operator of the Vandall Piano Studio for 38 years, and a member of the Music Teachers National Association, Fortnightly Music Club of Philadelphia, and the Ohio Music Teachers Association. Mr. Vandall has published more than 400 works for the piano.

The title of this piece, **Birch Tree Rag**, is appropriately named because it's a rag which is a style of jazz with a lot of syncopation in the melody part and a steadily accented accompaniment. *Birch Tree Rag* exhibits these characteristics in both parts of the duet.  
~Collaborated by Juliana Gole and Grace Vanden Berge~

## Ballade - Friederich Burgmuller

**Friederich Burgmuller** was born in Regensburg, Germany and lived from 1806-1874 during the Classical period of music. Friederich Burgmuller was most famous for his three collections of teaching pieces for children.

The name of this piece is **Ballade**. A ballade is a genre of solo piano pieces written in a balletic narrative style, often with lyrical elements interspersed. In this piece, it tells the story of someone exploring, and the loud, accented notes that come are signs of this person discovering something interesting and exciting.

### Student biography

The pianist, **Grace Vanden Berge** is 11 years old and homeschooled at the 6th grade level. She has studied the piano for four years. Besides her love for the piano, she enjoys singing, and is a member of the Grand Rapids Symphony Youth Chorus. She also enjoys crafting, knitting, and reading. This summer, she is looking forward to swimming in the family pool and going to their cottage.

### Acknowledgement

I would like to thank my mom and dad for all of their love and support. I also want to thank my mom for bringing me to my lessons every week. ~Grace Vanden Berge~

## Sonatina in C Major Op. 36, No. 3 - Muzio Clementi

Muzio Clementi was born in Rome, Italy and lived from 1752 to 1832 during the Classical period of music. Some of Clementi's better-known pieces of music include Sonatina in C, Op. 36 No. 1 and Symphony No. 1 in C major, No 32. While he didn't necessarily have a standout, excellent piece renowned around the world, he wrote over 60 Sonatas for the piano alone. His studies and sonatas helped develop the techniques of the early piano, giving him the nickname "the father of the piano."

This piece is the third Sonatina in Clementi's 36th Opus (of sonatinas). It follows the traditional setup of any sonatina (or mini sonata), complete with an Exposition, Development, and Recapitulation. The Exposition begins with a lighthearted but full melody in the Key of C. It then transitions to a "dolce," or sweet, secondary theme in the Key of G. The Development is concise, consisting of an almost "upside-down" version of the main theme. Finally, the Recapitulation brings the main theme back, only this time, an octave lower. With a hint of flare, we arrive at the secondary theme, now in the Key of C, which takes the piece to a contented end. ~Jake Barnes~

### Student biography

The pianist, **Jacob Barnes**, is 13 years old, in 7th grade at Forest Hills Central Middle School and has studied piano for 9 years. Jacob enjoys drawing, playing percussion in the CMS band, reading, competing on the CMS Science Olympiad team, playing baseball, and, of course, playing the piano. This summer, he is looking forward to playing baseball, hanging out in his pool, playing with his dog, and possibly attending Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp.

## **Acknowledgement**

I would like to thank my parents for providing me with such a great opportunity to learn and enjoy the piano. I also want to thank them for their continued support, whether it be helping out with an everyday practice, or any of my performances. Finally, I want to thank Ms. Sherry for all of the work that she puts into teaching every one of us. ~Jacob Barnes~

### **Oh! Susanna! - Stephen Collins Foster Arr. by Timothy Brown**

Timothy Brown is a contemporary composer still alive today. "Oh! Susanna" was the first huge hit song in American popular music. Stephen Foster was born in Lawrenceville, Pennsylvania, U.S. and lived from 1826 to 1864 during the Romantic music period. Stephen taught himself to play the piano and he did not have any formal training in compositions, but he became famous for composing more than 200 songs. He is often referred to as the Father of American Music, was only 21 years old when he composed "Oh Susanna!" in 1848.

The name Susanna may have referred to Foster's deceased sister Charlotte, whose middle name was Sussannah. No American song had sold more than 5,000 copies before; "Oh! Susanna" sold over 100,000. After its publication, it quickly became known as an "unofficial theme of the Forty-Niners", with new lyrics about traveling to California during the gold rush with a "wash pan on my knee". As its lyrics suggest, the song is about a young man traveling through the south, separated from his lovely Susanna, and telling her he'll be home soon. ~ Collaborated program notes ~Jacob Barnes and Nathan Jones~

### **The Grand Tetons - Valerie Roth Roubos**

Valerie Roth Roubos is a contemporary American composer. She has a piano studio in Washington. Valerie was selected as the Composer of the Year in 2001 with the South Dakota Teachers Association and 2006 with the Washington State Music Teachers Association. She is a believer of all students are able to play expressive music.

The Grand Tetons is a piece of music from An American Portrait: Views of the West published by The FJH Music Company, Inc. in 2010, written by Valerie. The music has a grand sound that portrays tall snowy mountains from the Jackson Hole Valley. The valley is between the Teton Mountain Range and the Gros Ventre Range in Wyoming sitting near the border of Idaho.

## **Student Biography**

Nathan Jones is a 8.5 years old pianist, currently in Meadow Brook Elementary 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. He has been studying piano for 4.5 years. He enjoys swimming, camping, and building LEGOs. This summer he is looking forward to attend the Interlochen Music Summer Camp.

## **Acknowledgement**

I want to thank my piano teacher, Ms. Sherry, and my parents for helping me learn piano.~Nathan Jones~

### **Cailin na Gruaige Baine - Phil Coulter**

**Phil Coulter** was born in London, United Kingdom and lives from 1942-present day during the Contemporary and Modern eras. Coulter was most famous for being awarded the Gold Badge from the British Academy of Songwriters.

The name of this piece, Cailin na Gruaige Baine, is significant because it is a love story with lots of heart break as well as happiness. The piece uses contrasting dynamics to tell the story so you can feel the mood of the piece.

## **Student biography**

The pianist, **Kirsten Kuz**, is 14 years old, in 10th grade at Forest Hills Eastern High School and has studied piano for 7-9ish years? Kirsten enjoys figure skating, horseback

riding, and drawing. This summer she is looking forward to going to Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp.

### **Parent biography**

**Cheryl Kuz** took flute lessons in college while studying the sciences in preparation for medical school. She also took piano lessons for 8 years as a child. She is now a pediatrician and mother of three. Kirsten is her youngest, while the older two are in college. Cheryl enjoys skiing, music, and reading.

### **Acknowledgement**

Thank you to my parents for providing for me and financing my lessons.

~Kirsten Kuz~

### ***Sturm und Drang (Storm and Stress) - Cornelius Gurlitt***

**Cornelius Gurlitt** (1820-1901) was a German composer and music theorist during the Romantic era of music. He was born in Altona, Schleswig-Holstein. Gurlitt studied at the famous Leipzig Conservatory. His first public performance was at the age of seventeen. Gurlitt produced everything ranging from songs, teaching pieces, operas, cantatas and symphonies. He died back in his hometown, Altona at the age of 81.

### **Student biography**

**Liana Boersma** is 17 and goes to Forest Hills Northern High School. She loves to sew; when not sewing she's reading, writing, doing homework, or spending time with friends. Liana has a few very specific interests such as jellyfish and historical fashion, both of which she can talk at length about.

### **Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank my parents for the opportunity to take piano lessons and for their encouragement. ~Liana Boersma~

### ***Habanera from Carmen - Georges Bizet***

The Habanera is a Cuban dance that came to Spain in the mid-19th century. It is typically in 2/4 time and uses a dotted rhythm pattern. This Habanera from "Carmen" is an aria, sung by the titular character named Carmen used in this instance to seduce the men in a café. This Habanera has a chromatic melody that starts in D minor and then changes to the parallel key of D major.

Georges Bizet was born in Paris, France on October 25, 1838, and died on June 3, 1875. He is a French composer who is most known for writing operas in the romantic period of music.

~ Corroborated by Bennett Guensche & Liana Boersma~

### ***After Midnight & Bourbon Street Saturday Night - William Gillock***

**William Gillock** was born in La Russell, United States on July 1, 1917 and lived to September 7, 1993. He lived during the Contemporary period of music. Gillock is most known for teaching, composing, and holding workshops. Gillock lived in New Orleans during the big band swing era of jazz music. This most definitely influenced his compositions.

The name **After Midnight** gives a unique perspective of New Orleans. It shows the less frantic scene of the city after midnight as the song's name implies. This piece uses the una corda pedal to soften the tone of the strings.

The song **Bourbon Street Saturday Night** gets its name from a particularly lively street in New Orleans, Louisiana. This piece utilizes dominant seven chords. These four note chords are very prevalent in jazz.

### **Student Biography**

The pianist, Bennett Guensche, is a senior this year at Forest Hills Northern High School and has studied piano for 12 years. He enjoys playing trombone in the St. Cecilia Jazz Ensemble, camping, biking and playing chess. This summer he is looking forward to going to Germany with his mom.

## Acknowledgement

I would like to thank my mother for providing piano lessons for me. I would also like to thank her for her encouragement and support for the many years I have had music lessons. ~Bennett Guensche~

### Canon in D - Johann Pachelbel/Arr. Faber

**Johann Pachelbel** was born in the Free Imperial City of Nuremberg and lived from 1653 to 1706 during the baroque period of music. Johann Pachelbel was known for his works for organ and one of the great organ masters of the generation before Johann Sebastian Bach.

**Canon in D** was originally written for three violins and basso continuo. A canon is a polyphonic device by which several voices play the same music, entering in sequence. In the original Canon in D, the first violin begins, the second violin enters two bars later and the third enters two bars after that. They play exactly the same melody. This particular arrangement for piano was created by Nancy and Randall Faber.

## Student Biography

The pianist, Emily Kieff, is 14 years old, in 9th grade at Forest Hills Northern High School and has studied piano for 9.5 years. Emily enjoys playing tennis, playing with her dogs, and hanging out with her friends. This summer she is looking forward to going on vacation with her family and hanging out with friends.

## Acknowledgements

I wish to thank my parents for their care and support in helping me learn to play the piano and present this concert. ~Emily Kieff~

### Tarantella - Albert Pieczonka

**Albert Pieczonka** was born on February 10, 1828 in Königsberg, Prussia. Pieczonka is a composer who has performed in Prussia, England, and the United States. His most famous piece he composed was "Tarantella in A Minor" And has remained his most famous piece 100 years after his death.

**Tarantella** is a rapid, whirling dance originating in southern Italy. This is represented in the piece when the keys "twirl" high up on the piano with a alternating bass. The piece is written in 6/8 time and has a rapid tune which is another key of the word Tarantella in a music definition.

## Student Biography

**Anna Alt** is 13 Years old and has been playing the piano for nine years. She has a pet bird named Summer. She enjoys swimming, rowing and drawing. In the summer, she's looking forward to attending Camp Henry and spending time with her friends and family.

## Acknowledgement

I would like to thank my parents for this wonderful opportunity I have to play the piano. They've always been there for me no matter what. Whether it was driving me to lessons or listening to me practice I know that they will always be there for me.

~Anna Alt~

### Norwegian Dance - Edward Grieg

**Edward Grieg** was born in Bergen, Norway and lived from 1843 to 1907 during the Romantic period of music. Grieg was most famous for his development of Norwegian folk music. In the spring of 1860, he survived two life-threatening lung diseases, pleurisy and tuberculosis. Throughout his life, Grieg's health was impaired by a destroyed left lung and considerable deformity of his thoracic spine. He suffered from numerous respiratory infections, and ultimately developed combined lung and heart failure. Grieg was admitted many times to spas and sanatoria both in Norway and abroad. Several of his doctors became his personal friends.

The name of this piece is **Norwegian Dance**. Norwegian dances, along with other Scandinavian dances, are primarily social in nature as opposed to religious or ritualistic.

Norwegian dances were danced for fun at festive occasions such as weddings, midsummer, Christmas, and just plain parties. ~Samantha McClelland & Anna Alt~

### **Scherzo - Gurlitt**

**Cornelius Gurlitt** was born in Altona, Germany and lived from 1820 to 1901 during the Romantic period of music. His first public appearance at the age of seventeen was well received, and he decided to go to Copenhagen to continue his studies. There he studied organ, piano, and composition under Cullander and Weyse. In 1842, Gurlitt moved to Hørsholm, where he resided as organist and music teacher for four years. When the Schleswig-Holstein war broke out in 1849, Gurlitt became a military band master. His output was prodigious in quantity and breadth, ranging from songs and teaching pieces to operas, cantatas, and symphonies.

The name of this piece, **Scherzo**, means a vigorous, light, or playful composition, often in ABA form and sometimes one of the movements in a symphony or sonata. This scherzo by Gurlitt, stands on its own.

### **Student Biography**

The pianist, Samantha McClelland, is 12 years old, in 7th grade at Northern Hills Middle School and has studied piano for 8 years. Samantha enjoys running, diving, soccer, and playing the Alto Saxophone. This summer, she is looking forward to going to Costa Rica on a school trip.

### **Acknowledgement**

I wish to thank my mom and dad for helping me learn piano all these years. It is because of them that I am able to play at this concert. ~Samantha McClelland~

### **Love Like You - Aivi & Surasshu, Rebecca Sugar/arr. [ThePandaTooth](#))**

Composer, singer, and songwriter **Rebecca Sugar** is the creator of the popular cartoon *Steven Universe*, which explores themes of emotional wellbeing and healthy relationships.

**Love Like You** is waltz-y, in keeping with its subject of partnership, and jazzy, with a mixture of simple and complex chords and rhythms reflecting the multi-layeredness of human connections. The refrain "love like you" is the most tender part of the chorus when sung by a vocalist, and it appears in many places throughout this piece, most often off-beat.

#### **Student Biography**

**Destiny Wu** has played piano for 15 years. She is majoring in Computer Science and minoring in Creative Writing at the University of Michigan. In her free time, she enjoys reading science fiction.

#### **Acknowledgement**

I would like to acknowledge my parents, who are a lovely and encouraging audience at home. I would also like to express my gratitude to Ms. Sherry VanOveren, the instructor who has made all the world's difference in my musical journey.