

ACES: Articles, Columns, & Essays

7 Reasons to Love a Pianist

by Greg A. Grove, PsyThD, DSPE

Let the C Major scale lead the way...



Courage to believe that musical performance can financially sustain you. Courage to display your musicality before audiences that have wide-range anticipations and expectations.

Who might this be? Van Cliburn.

Listen at YouTube: “‘Russians Conquered My Heart’: Pianist Van Cliburn Reflects on 50 Years of Music Making,” PBS NewsHour, Feb 27, 2013; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4Z1e6HWV3Y>.

(Image from <https://www.discogs.com/artist/833035-Van-Cliburn>)



Dedication to the art of masterful musical interpretation. Dedication to increasing one's piano technique, velocity and muscular control.

Who might this be? Alicia de Larrocha.

Listen at YouTube: "Alicia de Larrocha plays Albéniz, Granados and de Falla (1962)," pianopera, June 1, 2016; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1a9fQ4nKck>.

(Image from <https://welltempered.wordpress.com/2014/06/13/>)



Exhilarating expectation of self and composition. Expectation that piano performance is the meeting place where no passage challenge nor endurance difficulty of self and composition cannot be overcome.

Who might this be? Sandrine Erdely-Sayo (ISPE member).

Listen at YouTube: “Sandrine Erdely-Sayo - Performance Demo,” Jordan Tullis, Sept. 11, 2015; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0aIYb3UQUEA>.

(Image from http://www.cinethea.com/erdely_sayo_sandrine_contact.html)



Failure to attain preeminence and not give up.

Who might this be? John Field.

Listen at YouTube: “John Field, Nocturne n. 2 in C minor, with score,” huakinthoi, Aug. 3, 2012; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BrnSxYyG2ZE>.

(Image from <https://pxhst.co/avaxhome/cd/4b/00474bcd.jpg>)

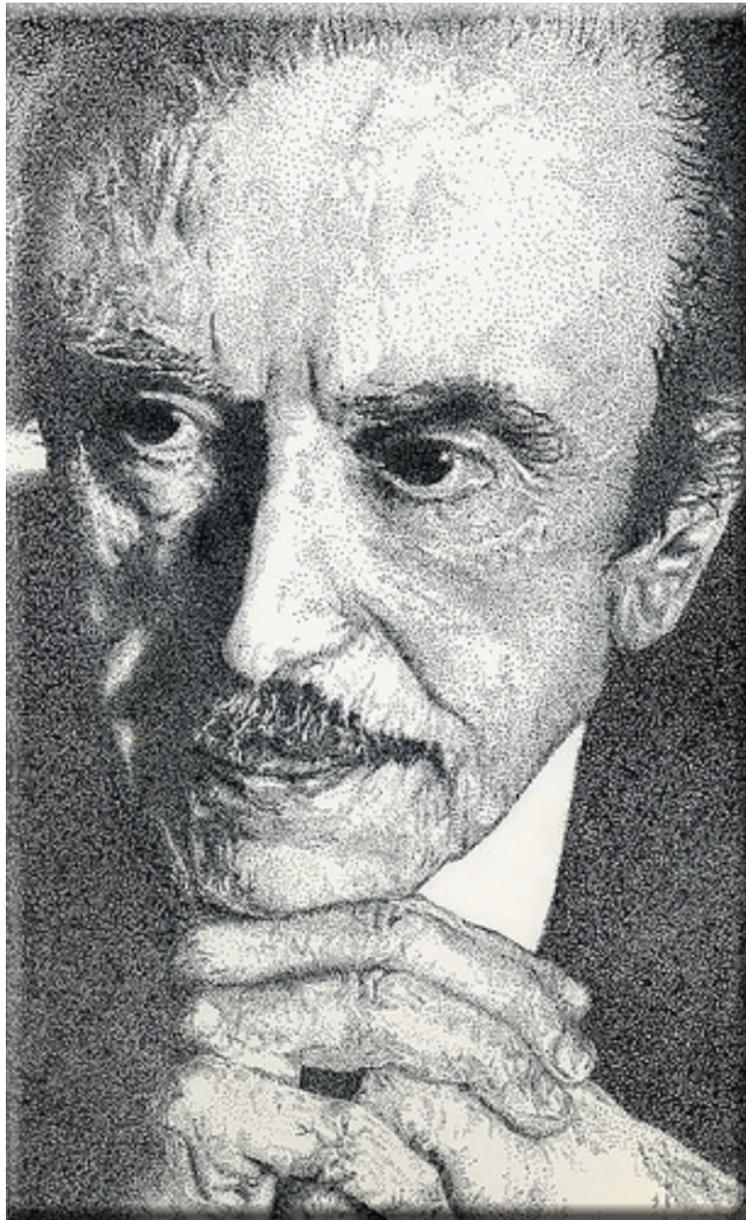


Genius to stand alone as composer AND performer. Genius that is the result of innate musicality plus expectant intuition.

Who might this be? George Gershwin.

Listen at YouTube: “George Gershwin in Focus 1/3 (Jack Gibbons & Sir Ben Kingsley),” Jack Gibbons, Mar. 25, 2011; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSYdLayPvng>.

(Image from <https://richardzampellashannonmulholland.wordpress.com/>)



Accuracy of touch and tone. Accuracy that is achieved via both neurologic and sensorial means.

Who might this be? Claudio Arrau.

Listen at YouTube: “Claudio Arrau – Art of Piano,” Farookhq17, Jan. 10, 2012; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXOiLVT18W4>.

(Image from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/47548412@N00/525493861/>)



Balance in an age of extremes. Balance in utilizing musical forces that energize and harmonize the listener's mind and soul.

Who might this be? Leonard Bernstein.

Listen at YouTube: "Leonard Bernstein Legacy," CMajorEntertainment, Sept. 28, 2018; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CL3Xop8Nvog>.

(Image from <https://psmag.com/social-justice/somewhere-a-place-for-us>)