

The Carl Czerny Tradition

Piano Traditions Through Their Genealogy Trees

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Biographies¹

Agthe, Albrecht Wilhelm Johann²

German

Ballenstedt, July 13, 1790 — Berlin, October 8, 1873

Agthe played second violin in the Gewandhaus Orchestra in Leipzig, and founded a music school in Dresden, which used Johann Bernhard Logier's methods on keyboard pedagogy. Subsequently, he established similar schools in other cities and counted Theodor and Adolf Kullak among his pupils. Agthe composed some works for piano.

Bach Mills, Sebastian

English

Cirencester, England, March 13, 1839 — Wiesbaden, Germany, December 21, 1898

Bach Mills was a virtuoso pianist who achieved recognition in the United States as an exponent of Liszt's tradition. He gave the American premieres of such piano concertos as those of Schumann, Chopin's *Second*, Liszt's *First* and Hiller, and appeared at the Philharmonic Society concerts for 18 consecutive seasons. He also was of paramount importance in the promotion and fame of the new Steinway pianos. His piano compositions were popular for a time.

Barabini, Olga

Died in 1980

Olga Barabini was a pianist and a student of Claudio Arrau. She taught privately in New York City. Garrick Ohlsson was among her students.

Beethoven, Ludwig van

German

Bonn, baptized December 17, 1770 — Vienna, March 26, 1827

One of the most influential, admired and popular figures in music history, Beethoven was a great pianist and improviser, and a visionary composer who transcended the limits of the piano, particularly after the illness, which isolated him—deafness—worsened. He described the state of his despairing soul in the famous Heiligenstadt Testament of 1802, addressed to his brothers Johann and Carl. He had Belgian ancestry and came from three generations of musicians who worked for the Electorate of Cologne. Beethoven settled in Vienna in 1792, where

¹ Names appear alphabetically ordered.

he received lessons from Haydn and likely from Mozart and became a highly respected composer in the Austrian capital. Beethoven's piano output is crowned by the 32 piano sonatas, the 5 piano concertos, and the *Diabelli variations*, all of which are masterpieces of the piano literature.

[See the [Ludwig van Beethoven Tradition](#)]

Oury [née de Belleville], Anna Caroline

German

Landshut, Bavaria, June 24, 1808 — Munich, July 22, 1880

Anna Oury was a pianist and composer of French descent. Known also as Ninette de Belleville or Ninette von Belleville, she was a student of Carl Czerny in Vienna, where he met and heard Beethoven improvise. Chopin praised her playing in Warsaw and dedicated to her his *Waltz in f minor, op. posth. 70, no. 2*. She also studied with Johann Andreas Streicher. She appeared in London with Nicolò Paganini. Anna Caroline married English violin player Antonio James Oury. They toured extensively in Russia, Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, France, Italy and Belgium. She composed some pieces for the piano.

Benedict, Sir Julius

British

Stuttgart, November 27, 1804 — London, June 5, 1885

Sir Julius Benedict was a British composer, conductor and pianist. He was of German Jewish descent. At 15, he was sent to Weimar to study with Hummel, who introduced him to Beethoven. Benedict also studied with Weber, with whom he had close relationship materialized in a biography of the German composer published in 1881. He lived in Naples for nine years and became a respected musician in Italy. In 1835, Benedict settled in London. In 1850, he toured with Jenny Lind in the United States, conducting many of her concerts. Benedict was a talented pianist and dedicated much of his time to this instrument. He composed three piano concertos, many fantasies on opera themes by Balfe, Bellini, Donizetti, Gounod and Verdi, and on Irish, Scottish and Welsh melodies. He also wrote a number of variations, dances and marches. Benedict published an edition of piano works by Beethoven, Dussek, Mendelssohn and Weber, as well as pedagogical pieces. Benedict died suddenly from heart failure.

Bischoff, Hans

German

Berlin, February 17, 1852 — Niederschönenhausen, near Berlin, June 12, 1889

Hans Bischoff was a pianist, teacher and editor. He studied piano with Theodor Kullak and Richard Wüerst in Berlin. He also studied philosophy and modern languages. He taught at the Neue Akademie der Tonkunst and at the Stern Conservatory. He published influential editions of the music of Handel, Mozart, Clementi, Weber, Schubert and Schumann, including the first variorum edition of Bach's *Well-tempered clavier*.

Bülow, Hans Guido Freiherr von

German

Dresden, Germany, January 8, 1830 — Cairo, Egypt, February 12, 1894

One of the most important piano heirs of Liszt's tradition, he concertized in Europe and America achieving important feats as the premiere of Tchaikovsky's *First Piano Concerto* in Boston in 1875, being the first pianist ever to perform the complete Beethoven sonatas in a single cycle or giving the first performance of Liszt's *Sonata in B minor*. He was a superb pianist with an excellent memory and precision. He was also a professional conductor and gave the premieres of *Tristan und Isolde* and *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*. He held the positions of Hofkapellmeister in Munich and in Hanover, Hofmusikdirektor in Meiningen and principal conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic from 1887 to 1892. He composed a number of piano pieces and made some piano transcriptions of orchestral works by Wagner, Glück and Weber. He was married to Liszt's daughter Cosima until she left him for Richard Wagner.

[See the [Hans von Bülow](#) Tradition]

Busoni, Ferruccio

Italian

Empoli, Tuscany, April 1, 1866 — Berlin, July 27, 1924

Born in the region of Tuscany, his family moved to Trieste, in the Northern part of the country, when he was only a few months old and, as a result, he was influenced by a Germanic atmosphere. His father, who gave him his first piano instruction focused on Bach, was a virtuoso clarinet player, and his Austrian-born mother was a pianist. Although he was baptized Catholic, he was fundamentally an atheist. He entered the Vienna Conservatory at the age of nine but, unhappy with the curriculum of studies, left after only two years. He taught at the Helsinki College of Music, New England Conservatory in the USA and at the Vienna Conservatory, and also in Switzerland and Moscow, where he married Gerda Sjöstrand. He enjoyed giving "historical recitals", inspired by Anton Rubinstein, such as the six concerts he performed in Berlin in 1911 championing the music of Liszt or the series of eight recitals devoted to the piano literature since Bach. His extensive output includes works of a broad compositional spectrum including the monumental *Piano Concerto* (with a male chorus finale), *Fantasia contrappuntistica*, *Suite Campestre*, *24 Preludi*, *Sonata in F*, *Sonatina Seconda* and the *Toccata*. The letters "BV" or "KiV" following his compositions refer to Jürgen Kindermann's catalogue. He mastered an extensive repertoire and produced a number of Bach transcriptions such as the organ preludes and the *Chaconne* and published an annotated edition of the *Well-tempered clavier* and of Liszt's works for the Franz-Liszt-Stiftung. He made several 78-rpm and piano-roll recordings including Liszt's *Feux follets* and *Réminiscences de Don Juan*.

[See the [Ferruccio Busoni](#) Tradition]

Chasins, Abram

American

New York, August 17, 1903 — New York, June 21, 1987

Abram Chasins was a pianist, composer, writer and broadcaster on music. He studied at such prestigious schools as Juilliard, Columbia University and Curtis, where he also taught from 1926 to 1935. After concertizing for two decades, he became director of WQXR. His work at this radio station helped him to win a Peabody Award. He also was musician-in-residence at the University of Southern California. Chasins composed over 100 piano pieces, including *Three Chinese Pieces* and the *24 Preludes*. He published *Speaking of Pianists*, Van Cliburn and Leopold Stokowski biographies, and *Music at the Crossroads*, a criticism of American universities for underpreparing music students for the real world.

Cherkassky, Shura

Russian-American

Odessa, October 7, 1909 — London, December 27, 1995

Shura Cherkassky was a pianist and a child prodigy. He moved to America in 1923 to study with Hofmann at the Curtis Institute. After World War II, he settled in London. Among his repertoire, there were less frequently performed composers such as Boulez, Stockhausen, Hindemith, Ives, Ligeti and Berg. He made his first recording in 1926.

Chopin, Frédéric-François

Polish

Zelazowa Wola, March 1, 1810 — Paris, October 17, 1849

Frédéric Chopin was a pianist and composer. His father was from Lorraine, France. He studied with Zywny, Elsner and with Wilhelm Würfel, an eminent pianist. However, in terms of piano training, Chopin was mainly self-taught. His earliest autograph is the Polonaise in A flat major, dated in 1821. On November 1, 1830, he departed for Vienna and would never return to his native Poland. After spending some time in Vienna, Munich and Stuttgart, he travelled to Paris. His Parisian debut took place in the Salle Pleyel on February 26, 1832. In the French capital, Chopin became a famous teacher, composer and pianist, although he did not frequently perform in public. He was in close terms with Hiller, Liszt, Berlioz, Delacroix and Franchomme. In 1838, Chopin and George Sand began their love affair which was to last until 1847. Chopin spent periods of time in Majorca, Marseilles, Nohant, London and Scotland. His health had always been weak and, by October 1848 he weighed less than 45 kgs. Chopin is among the greatest composers for the piano and wrote numerous pieces including études, mazurkas, nocturnes, waltzes, polonaises, sonatas, impromptus, ballades and two concertos.

[See the [Frédéric Chopin Tradition](#)]

Clementi, Muzio

Italo-English

Rome, January 23, 1752 — Evesham, Worcester, March 10, 1832

Popularly known as the “father of the pianoforte”, his influence on subsequent generations of pianists, piano composers, publishing and manufacturing firms is undisputed. Clementi counted among his students such distinguished pianists as Ludwig Berger, Carl Czerny, John Field and Frédéric Kalkbrenner. His pedagogical works *Introduction to the Art of Playing the Pianoforte* (1801) and *Gradus ad Parnassum* (1817, 1819, 1826) became of frequent use for pianists all over the world. In his teens, Clementi’s talent drew the attention of an Englishman named Peter Beckford, who in his own words “bought Clementi of his father for seven years”. Clementi spent all that time near Dorset, England, immersed in studying music and practicing the harpsichord. After this period, he moved to London where he became a celebrity as composer, teacher, performer, manufacturer and publisher, and signed a contract with Beethoven to publish a few major works. He is buried at the cloisters of Westminster Abbey in London.

[See the [Muzio Clementi Tradition](#)]

Cleve, Halfdan

Norwegian

Kongsberg, October 5, 1879 — Oslo, April 6, 1951

Halfdan Cleve was a pianist and composer. He received his first music lessons from his father, who was an organist. He later studied with Winter-Hjelm, with the Scharwenka brothers and with Oscar Raiff. He taught at the Oslo Conservatory. In 1939, the Norwegian government granted him a stipend for life. Cleve composed piano music including piano concerti, etudes and the *Sonata op. 19*.

Czartoryska [née Radziwill], Princess Marcelina

Polish

Podluzne Polesie, May 18, 1817 — Kraków, June 5, 1894

Princess Marcelina Czartoryska was a pianist. She studied with Czerny. She also was a pupil of Chopin and was one of the few friends present at his death. She performed with Vieuxtemps, Franchomme, Viardot and Liszt. She frequently performed and lectured on Chopin’s music.

Czerny, Carl

Austrian

Vienna, February 21, 1791 — Vienna, July 15, 1857

Active as a teacher, composer, pianist, theorist and historian, he is a fundamental figure in the history of the piano. His most famous students were Franz Liszt, Theodor Leschetizky and Theodor Kullak. His early musical instruction was supervised by his father Wenzel Czerny, who was a pianist, organist, oboist and singer. At the age of ten, he began studies with Beethoven whose lessons, several times a week, employed C.P.E. Bach’s *Essay*. Czerny proofread many of

Beethoven's works and was admired for the interpretations of the master's works, all of which he apparently could play from memory. He was not interested in becoming a touring virtuoso and focused on teaching and composing instead. He taught 12 hours a day, charging high fees and amassing a fortune by the end of his life. His numerous compositions include studies, exercises, sonatas, sonatinas and even a *Concerto for four hands*. Of a great influence are his technical studies such as the opp. 200, 300, 400, 500, 600 and *The Art of Finger Dexterity op. 740*. Czerny was in close terms with Chopin and with his pupil Liszt, who invited him to collaborate in his *Hexaméron* variations. He published an autobiography in 1842 titled *Erinnerungen aus meinem Leben*.

[See the [Carl Czerny Tradition](#)]

Czerny, Wenzel

Czech

Nimburg, near Prague, 1750 — 1832

Wenzel Czerny was a pianist, organist, oboist and singer. He was the father of Carl Czerny and was trained as a musician at a Benedictine monastery near Prague. After he married, he settled in Vienna in 1786.

Dachs Joseph

Austrian

Regensburg, September 30, 1825 — Vienna, June 6, 1896

Joseph Dachs was a pianist and teacher. He studied with Sechter, Halm and Czerny, whose compositions he often premiered. He taught at the Vienna Conservatory since 1850. Dachs performed under Liszt's baton at the Mozart Centenary Festival in Vienna in 1856.

de Pachmann, Vladimir

Ukrainian

Odessa, July 27, 1848 — Rome, January 6, 1933

Vladimir de Pachmann was a pianist. His father was an Austrian violinist, and his mother was Turkish. He received the Gold Medal at the Vienna Conservatory in 1869. After attending one of Tausig's concerts in Odessa in 1870, he abandoned the concert stage in order to study for eight years. Pachmann used to talk to the audience before, during and after the concert. His special fingerings are shown on a few Chopin editions published by Augener. Most of his discography is kept at the Gustafson Piano Library in Lennoxville, Canada. He married his Australian student Maggie Oakey in 1884.

Döhler, Theodor

Austrian

Naples, April 20, 1814 — Florence, February 21, 1856

Döhler was a pianist and composer. He was a child prodigy and was sent to Vienna around 1829 to study with Czerny. From 1836 to 1846, Döhler toured internationally as a piano virtuoso. After he married the Russian Princess Chermetev, he abandoned the concert stage and settled in Florence in 1848.

Döhler composed a *Piano Concerto op. 7*, *Nocturne op. 24*, *Tarantella op. 39* and *Romance sans paroles*, among other works.

Door, Anton

Austrian

Vienna, June 20, 1833 — Vienna, November 7, 1919

He had an important impact on the Russian school of pianism. He was a member of the Royal Academy in Stockholm and president of the Friends of Brahms Society in Vienna. He was the dedicatee of Tchaikovsky's *Valse-Caprice op. 4* and Saint-Saëns' *Piano Concerto no. 4*.

[See the [Anton Door](#) Tradition]

Grøndahl, Agathe Backer

Norwegian

Holmestrand, December 1, 1847 — Cristiania, now Oslo, June 4, 1907

Married to the conductor Olavs Andreas Grøndahl, she had an important impact in Norway both as a pianist and composer, particularly for her songs and for the over 120 piano pieces she composed. Noteworthy are the *Serenade op. 15 no. 1*, the *Ballade op. 36 no 5*, *Sommervise op. 45 no. 3* and the *Six Concert-etuder op. 11*.

Grünfeld, Alfred

Austrian

Prague, July 4, 1852 — Vienna, January 4, 1924

Alfred Grünfeld was a pianist and composer. He was born into a Jewish and musical family, which included Ludwig Grünfeld, who worked for Deutsche Grammophon, and Siegmund Grünfeld, répétiteur at the Vienna Hofoper. Alfred Grünfeld studied with Theodor Kullak and Bedrich Smetana. Gustav Mahler lived with the Grünfeld family during the winter of 1871, which proved to be an unpleasant experience for him. Grünfeld taught at the Conservatory of Vienna since 1897. He produced some commercial recordings including an 1889 wax cylinder for the Edison Phonograph, and rolls for Welte-Mignon and Phonola between 1905 and 1911. In total, Grünfeld made over 150 recordings of piano music including his own compositions. His piano output includes the *Octave study op. 15*, *Spanish Serenade op. 37*, *Romanze op. 42* and a number of transcriptions.

Halm, Anton

Austrian

Haselberg, June 5, 1789 — Vienna, April 6, 1872

An official of the Imperial and Royal Army for a period of three years, he met Beethoven and performed his works on a few occasions, writing a four-hand arrangement of the *Grosse Fugue* for Artaria. He also collaborated with a variation for Anton Diabelli's project.

Hauser, Richard

Austrian

Vienna, December 31 — Vienna, July 17, 1970

Richard Hauser was a pianist and teacher. He studied in Vienna with Josef Hofmann, Norbert Kahrer and Paul Weingarten. He also received lessons from Emil von Sauer. He taught at the Vienna Conservatory.

Heuschkel, Johann Peter

German

Harras, January 4, 1773 — Biebrich, December 5, 1853

Johann Peter Heuschkel was an oboist, organist, composer and teacher. He was regarded by his student Carl Maria von Weber as his most important pianistic influence. Heuschkel composed piano sonatas and variations, and an arrangement for piano duet of the overture to *Der Freischütz*.

Hofmann, Heinrich

German

Berlin, January 13, 1842 — Gross-Tabarz, Thuringia, July 16, 1902

Heinrich Hofmann was a pianist and composer. He studied with Theodor Kullak, Eduard Grell, Siegfried Dehn and Richard Wüerst. He was appointed to the Royal Academy of the Arts in 1882. His comic opera *Cartouche* in Berlin in 1869 was received to great acclaim and encouraged Hofmann to dedicate himself to composition. His piano works include *Two Serenaden*, *Nachklänge opp. 34 and 37*, and *Stimmungsbilder*.

Hofmann, Josef

Polish-American

Kraków, January 20, 1876 — Los Angeles, February 16, 1957

Josef Hofmann was a pianist, composer and inventor. He was a child prodigy, not only in music but in history, mathematics, science and mechanics. He took a few lessons from Moritz Moszkowski and, subsequently, with Anton Rubinstein, who deeply influenced him. In 1926, he was appointed director of the Curtis Institute. He retired from the concert platform in New York in 1946. He was the dedicatee of Rachmaninov's *Third Piano Concerto*, which he never played. Hofmann was the first professional musician ever to record. He made a few cylinders at Edison's laboratory in New Jersey in 1887. As a composer, he wrote over 100 pieces, mostly under the pseudonym Michel Dvorsky. Hofmann also patented about 70 scientific and mechanical artifacts. He published *Piano Playing* and *Piano Questions Answered*. His father was the Polish pianist, conductor and teacher Kazimierz Hofmann. His mother was a singer of light operas.

Hollander, Alma

German

Born in 1847

Hood, Elene Francis

American

Chelsea, June 28, 1863 — Brookline, January 22, 1949

Elene Francis Hood was a pianist, composer and teacher. After studies in Boston, she went to Berlin to become a pupil of Moritz Moszkowski and Scharwenka. She composed songs, chamber music and piano pieces since the 1930s.

Hummel, Johann Nepomuk

Austrian

Pressburg, now Bratislava, November 14, 1778 — Weimar, October 17, 1837

One of the most famous pianists and composers of his time, he was also active as a conductor and teacher. The son of a string player and conductor, he was musically precocious since the age of three. A pupil of Mozart, Hummel lived in the Mozart's household where he met da Ponte, Haydn and other personalities of Vienna. He also studied with Albrechtsberger and Salieri. In 1788, he went on an extended concert tour that took him all over Europe during the next five years. In 1804, he succeeded Haydn at Esterházy and conducted the premiere of Haydn's *The Creation* at the palace in Eisenstadt. In 1818 he was appointed grand-ducal Kapellmeister at Weimar, a post he held until his death. Hummel met and had a profound impact on Chopin, Liszt and Schubert, who had dedicated to him his last three piano sonatas until Diabelli posthumously changed the dedicatory to Schumann. He was a prolific composer in virtually all genres of the time and wrote piano concertos, variations, sonatas, preludes, bagatelles, rondos and numerous other pieces, including successful piano arrangements of orchestral works. His *Complete Theoretical and Practical Course of Instructions on the Art of Playing the Piano Forte* enjoyed a tremendous success and was published almost at the same time in Germany, England and France, selling thousands of copies. He maintained an unsettling but lasting friendship with Beethoven, was one of the pallbearers at his funeral and improvised at the Beethoven's memorial concert upon the composer's request. He married the singer Elisabeth Röckel and one of their sons, Eduard, became a pianist.

[See the [Johann Nepomuk Hummel Tradition](#)]

Jaëll, Alfred

Austrian

Trieste, March 5, 1832 — Paris, February 27, 1882

Alfred Jaëll was firstly taught the violin and piano by his father Eduard Jaëll. He was a piano virtuoso and a friend of Franz Liszt. Jaëll was court pianist at Hanover and was a pianist admired by his interpretations of Chopin. He composed a handful of virtuoso works and paraphrases. He married the pianist Marie Trautmann in 1866.

Janson, Selmar

German-American

Eastern Prussia, May 27, 1881 — November 19, 1960

Member of the Brahms Piano Trio, he started to play the piano at age four and offered his first recital at the age of eight in Berlin. He was once equaled to Paderewski and Hofmann as being one of the greatest pianists of his time. He offered American pianist Byron Janis a scholarship to study with him, but Janis rejected it in favor of studying with Adele Marcus in New York.

Kalkbrenner, Frédéric

French

early November 1785 — Enghien-les-Bains, June 10, 1849

Kalkbrenner was a pianist, teacher and composer. He was born en route from Kassel to Berlin. His father, Christian Kalkbrenner, gave him his first music lessons. Subsequently, Kalkbrenner studied at the Paris Conservatory and obtained premiers prix in piano and harmony. Between 1803 and 1804, he travelled to Vienna where he met Haydn, who offered him guidance, and also made the acquaintance of Clementi. In 1814, Kalkbrenner settled in England, where he achieved fame as a pianist, teacher and composer. Ten years after, he returned to Paris and found his place among the most prominent virtuosos of his day, not only in France but all over Europe, attaining an international career without precedent. Kalkbrenner invited Chopin to study with him, but the Polish composer declined the offer. However, Chopin dedicated his *Concerto in E minor op. 11* to Kalkbrenner. As a composer, Kalkbrenner focused mostly on the piano. He produced piano concertos, 13 sonatas, *Élégie harmonique op. 36*, *Caprice op. 104*, and a number of other pieces such as airs variés, romances, rondeaux and waltzes. He also wrote pedagogical pieces including the *24 études dans tous les tons opp. 20* and *88*, *12 études préparatoires*, *25 grandes études de style et de perfectionnement*, and the influential *Méthode pour apprendre le piano-forte à l'aide du guide-mains*. He invented the so-called hand-guide mechanism with the aim of helping the pianist avoid any arm movement and, as a consequence, develop the maximum finger independence possible.

[See the [Frédéric Kalkbrenner Tradition](#)]

Kestenberg, Leo

Hungarian-Israeli

Rosenberg, Hungary, now Ruzomberok, Slovakia, November 27, 1882 — Tel-Aviv, January 14, 1962

Leo Kestenberg was a pianist and educationist. He studied with Kullak and Busoni. In Berlin, he taught at the Stern Conservatory and at the Klindworth-Scharwenka Conservatory. In 1918, he became musical adviser to the Prussian Ministry of Science, Culture and Education and, in 1922, director of the music department of the Central Institute for Education and Teaching, having a profound impact in Prussian music education at all levels. In Prague, he founded the International Society for Music Education. In 1938, he moved to Tel-Aviv, where

he was appointed general manager of the Palestine Orchestra, which became the Israel Philharmonic. He founded Israel's first training college for music teachers.

Kjerulf, Halfdan

Norwegian

Christiania, now Oslo, September 17, 1815 — Christiania, August 11, 1868

Although his family did not want him to study music but law, music remained always his main interest. Due to a severe illness, he travelled to Paris where he could experience the intense musical life there. Upon his return to Christiania, his father, brother and sister died within a short period of time. Subsequently, he had to work as a journalist but continued to learn music. Years later, he was able to study composition with Gade in Copenhagen and with E.F. Richter in Leipzig.

Kullak, Theodor

German

Krotoschin, now Krotoszyn, Poland, September 12, 1818 — Berlin, March 1, 1882

One of the most eminent piano teachers in the 19th century, he was pianist to the Prussian court and teacher of the royalty and aristocracy in Berlin. In that city, he co-founded and directed the Stern Conservatory, succeeded by Bülow, and later the Neue Akademie der Tonkunst, focused on piano teaching, which became the largest private school in Germany counting over 100 teachers and 1100 students. Kullak composed a substantial amount of piano works such as the *Symphonie de piano op. 27*, *Ballade op. 54*, *Scherzo op. 125* and, particularly influential, the *School of Octaves* studies.

[See the [Theodor Kullak Tradition](#)]

Jacob James Kwast

Dutch-German

Nijkerk, Netherlands, November 23, 1852 — Berlin, October 31, 1927

James Kwast was a pianist, teacher, composer and editor. He studied with his father and with Ferdinand Böhme, Carl Reinecke, Theodor Kullak, Louis Brassin and François-Auguste Gevaert. He settled in Germany in 1833, where he taught at the Cologne, Hoch, Klindworth-Scharwenka and Stern conservatories. He was the pianist for the English premiere of Brahms' *Piano Trio in C minor*. The last piece that Clara Schumann ever played in public was the *Variations on a theme by Haydn* of Brahms, for two pianos, with Kwast as her partner. He wrote a *Piano Concerto* and made a number of Bach transcriptions, among other pieces, and edited the works of Joseph Haydn. His first wife was the daughter of Ferdinand Hiller and their daughter married the composer Hans Pfitzner, who was a student of Kwast. His second wife was one of his students, Frida Hodapp, who was also a pupil of Busoni and premiered his *Concertino*.

[See the [Jacob James Kwast Tradition](#)]

Lachmund, Carl

American

Booneville, United States, March 27, 1853 — New York, February 20, 1928

Of German descent, he studied in Cologne, Berlin and Weimar. He compiled in several personal diaries a detailed account of Liszt's masterclasses, comments and ideas about his fellow peers. These diaries were consolidated in *Living with Liszt*, a book published posthumously and edited by Alan Walker. He founded the Lachmund Piano Conservatory in New York and the Women's String Orchestra, one of the first of its type. The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts holds Lachmund's extensive memorabilia and materials about Liszt.

Lacombe Louis

French

Bourges, November 26, 1818 — Saint Vaast-la-Hougue, Manche, September 30, 1884

Louis Lacombe was a pianist, composer and writer. Since age eleven, he studied with Pierre Zimmermann at the Paris Conservatoire and won the Premier Prix. He also studied with Czerny in Vienna. His second wife was a famous singer at the Opéra-Comique, Claudine Duclairfiat, a.k.a. Andrée Favel. His piano works include nocturnes, études, vales, melodies and fantasias.

Landowska, Wanda

Polish

Warsaw, July 5, 1879 — Lakeville, Connecticut, August 16, 1959

Wanda Landowska was a keyboard player and composer. She specialized in the repertoire from the 17th and 18th centuries and was a crucial figure in the revival of the harpsichord. Her first public appearance on the harpsichord took place in 1903. She studied with two Chopin specialists: Jan Kleczyński and Aleksander Michalowski. Pleyel built a special two-manual harpsichord to her own specifications. She and her husband Henry Lew, a Hebrew folklore scholar, were detained in Berlin during the World War I. Landowska lectured at the Sorbonne and at the Ecole Normale in Paris. She founded the Ecole de Musique Ancienne in Saint-Leu-la-Fôret. Francis Poulenc dedicated to her his *Concert champêtre*. Landowska's disciple Denise Restout edited *Landowska on Music* in 1965.

Leschetizky, Theodor

Polish

Łańcut, Galicia, June 22, 1830 — Dresden, November 14, 1915

Theodor Leschetizky was a pianist, teacher and composer. His father gave him his first music lessons. His debut, performing a Czerny concertino, was conducted by W.A. Mozart's son, Franz Xaver. In Vienna, Leschetizky studied with Carl Czerny. In 1852, he moved to Saint Petersburg, where he taught and headed the piano department at the Conservatory from 1862 and stayed in the city for the next 26 years. His second wife was his student Anna Essipova, whom he divorced in 1892. Subsequently, he married two other students consecutively. Another student of his, Ignacy Jan Paderewski, contributed to expanding Leschetizky's fame as a teacher, particularly in the United States. An estimate of 1,200 pianists studied

with him, exerting a deep influence on pianism around the world, with students who were still performing as late as 1991. He was a crucial figure in the revival of Schubert's piano sonatas, especially through his student Arthur Schnabel. Leschetizky composed a one-movement *Piano Concerto* and virtuoso piano music.

[See the [Theodor Leschetizky Tradition](#)]

Liszt, Franz

Hungarian

Raiding, October 22, 1811 — Bayreuth, July 31, 1886

Pianist, conductor, teacher and composer, he is indisputably one of the greatest piano virtuosos of all time and a pioneer in different areas: he is the father of modern piano technique, inventor of the piano *recital*, the masterclass and of novel concepts in orchestral conducting. He performed complete concerts by memory, performed works from the entire history of the keyboard literature and always opened the lid of the piano towards the audience. His compositions envisioned new harmonic paths which greatly influenced Debussy, Ravel or Scriabin. Born in the Burgenland, a region which nowadays belongs to Austria, located at about 100 kms from Vienna, Liszt's native tongue was German, and he never became fluent or comfortable in Hungarian. His father, Adam, an amateur musician who worked for a long time at the Esterházy estates and met Joseph Haydn, gave him his first music lessons. During his travels, Liszt met Beethoven, Brahms, Anton Rubinstein, Chopin, Schumann, Berlioz, Alkan, Hiller, Grieg and many other contemporary figures. A student of Czerny, Salieri, Reicha and Ferdinando Paer, he went on extended concert tours in Europe, England, Scotland, Russia, Turkey, Spain and Portugal, playing numerous and populated recitals such as the one offered at La Scala in Milan for 3000 people. At the age of 35, he decided to abandon the stage and devote his time to mostly compose, teach and doing a great deal of travelling, especially to Weimar, Rome and Budapest. Always interested in the lives of the saints, religion and spiritual life, he received the four minor Catholic orders in July 1865. He lived at the Vatican for a time and became friends with Pope Pius IX. His compositional output for piano is enormous. His large-scale works include the *Sonata in B minor*, the *Dante Sonata* and the piano concertos. He went beyond the Romantic concept of the *étude* with the *12 Transcendental Études*, *6 Paganini Études* or the several *Études de Concert*, and wrote numerous *Hungarian Rhapsodies*. He produced numerous sets of pieces including the *Années de Pèlerinage*, *Harmonies Poétiques et Religieuses*, as well as the *Ballades* and the *Mephisto Waltzes*. Liszt also made numerous transcriptions of Bach's works, Schubert lieder and Beethoven symphonies and paraphrases on operatic themes such as *Rigoletto*, *Don Juan* and *Norma*. In the late pieces, he explored new harmonic devices, the exploitation of the limits of tonality and atmospheric effects in *Nuages Gris*, *La Lugubre Gondola*, *Unstern!* and *Bagatelle sans tonalité*. He produced editions of the Beethoven complete sonatas, Field's nocturnes, Chopin's complete works, and of pieces by Schubert and Weber. The most authoritative catalogue of Liszt's works was compiled by British composer Humphrey Searle, hence the use of the letter "S" following the titles of Liszt's works. Liszt had three children, two of them died during his lifetime and his daughter Cosima was married to Bülow before she left him for

Richard Wagner. By the end of his life, Liszt suffered from dropsy, fevers and cataracts. He likely died of heart infraction at the age of 74.

[See the [Franz Liszt](#) Tradition]

López Mindreau, Ernesto

Peruvian

Chiclayo, 1892 — Lima, 1972

Ernesto López Mindreau was a pianist and composer. He studied in Peru with Federico Gerdes and, subsequently, at the Paris Conservatoire, New York City, where he was a pupil of Rachmaninov and Stokowski, and in Berlin with Scharwenka. His piano compositions include the *Fantasia for piano and orchestra*, *Preludio en estilo antiguo* and *Preludio Incaico*.

Solomon Mikowsky

Cuban-American

Havana, March 10, 1936

Solomon Mikowsky is a pianist and teacher. His father was Belorussian, and his mother was Polish. He studied with César Pérez Sentenat in Cuba and with Sasha Gorodnitzki at the Juilliard School in New York. He also received a doctoral degree from Columbia University. He taught at the Manhattan School of Music and was a member of the Artist Faculty at the Chicago College of Performing Arts.

Moscheles, Ignaz

Bohemian

Prague, May 23, 1794 — Leipzig, March 10, 1870

Of Jewish descent, besides the piano he studied counterpoint with Albrechtsberger and composition with Salieri in Vienna, where he met Beethoven. The publisher Artaria commissioned him to write a piano reduction of Beethoven's opera *Fidelio*. Clementi and Cramer regarded him as an equal and friend, as well as Mendelssohn, whom he taught piano. He also met Chopin and played with him his *Grande sonata op. 47*. He taught at the Royal Academy of Music and was conductor of the Philharmonic Society, conducting the first performance of Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* in London in 1832. He also taught at the Leipzig Conservatory. He translated and edited Schindler's biography of Beethoven and published it as *The Life of Beethoven*. Moscheles established the "historical soirées" in London which championed early music played on the harpsichord. Moscheles commissioned Chopin's *Trois nouvelles études* for his piano method. He composed numerous piano works including the *Sonate mélancolique op. 49*, *La marche d'Alexandre op. 32*, *Präeludien op. 73*, sonatas, fantasias, rondos, variations, etudes opp. 70 and 95, piano concertos, and the *Hommage á Händel op. 92* for two pianos.

[See the [Ignaz Moscheles](#) Tradition]

Moszkowski, Moritz

German

Breslau, now Wrocław, August 23, 1854 — Paris, March 4, 1925

Of Polish descent and born into a wealthy Jewish family, he was also an accomplished violinist. During the 1880s, his concert and touring activities declined and finally ended due to a nervous breakdown. The popularity of his piano music contributed to make him substantially wealthy. However, from 1910 his fortune and fame declined as did his health, concluding his final years in poverty. He performed his early *Piano Concerto* on two pianos with Liszt. As a composer, he was famous mainly for his piano music. Examples of his output are the *Concert Studies op. 24*, *Caprice Espagnol op. 37*, *Tarantelle op. 27 no. 2*, *Serenate op. 15 no. 1*, *Piano Concerto op. 59* and the *Spanish Dances opp, 12, 21 and 65* for piano duet. Moszkowski married the sister of Cécile Chaminade.

Nin y Castellanos, Joaquín

Cuban

Havana, September 29, 1879 — Havana, October 24, 1949

Joaquín Nin y Castellanos was a pianist and composer. He studied with Moritz Moszkowski. He was the father of composer Joaquín Nin-Culmell and writer Anaïs Nin. In 1880, the family moved to Barcelona. He championed works by Chambonnières, Couperin and Rameau, being among the first pianists to perform this repertoire. He taught at the New University of Brussels, Schola Cantorum in Paris, and at the Conservatorio Nacional of Havana. He lived for a time in Berlin, where he established a close relationship with Teresa Carreño. His piano works include *Danza ibérica*, *1830 variations y Canto de cuna para los huérfanos de España*. As a researcher, Nin y Castellanos studied the Spanish folklore, continuing the work of Felipe Pedrell, and had a keen interest in harpsichord pieces of French, Italian and German composers. He edited works by Soler, Freixanet and Mateo Albéniz and published several books including *Pro Arte* and *Ideas y comentarios*. He married Singer Rosa Culmell Vaurigard in 1902.

Nissen [née Lie], Erika

Norwegian

Kongsvinger, January 17, 1845 — October 27, 1903

Erika Nissen was a pianist. She performed her debut in Berlin in 1866 and toured in Scandinavia, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland and France. In 1870, she retired and dedicated her life to teaching. She married politician Oscar Nissen.

Ohlsson, Garrick

American

White Plains, New York, April 3, 1948

Garrick Ohlsson is a pianist. He studied at Westchester Conservatory and at the Juilliard School. Her teachers include Thomas Lishman, Sascha Gorodnitzki, Rosina Lhévine, Claudio Arrau and Olga Barabini. He won competitions in Bolzano, Montreal and, especially, the Warsaw International Chopin Competition in 1970, becoming the first American to win it. He has an extensive discography

including the complete works of Brahms and Chopin. He world premiered Wuorinen's *Third Piano Concerto* and his concerto repertoire includes over 80 works.

Pease, Alfred Humphreys

American

Cleveland, May 6, 1838 — Saint Louis, July 12, 1882

Alfred Pease was a composer and pianist. On his mother side, he descended from English composer Pelham Humfrey. In Berlin, he studied with Hans von Bülow. During the last months of his life, he became an alcoholic and was found dead on the street in Saint Louis. He composed the *Piano Concerto in E-flat* and many piano pieces.

Plaidy, Louis

German

Hubertusburg, Saxony, November 28, 1810 — Grimma, Saxony, March 3, 1874

He was a famous pedagogue and, after Mendelssohn's invitation, he became a teacher at the Leipzig Conservatory. Although he initially toured as a concert violinist, he gradually became interested in piano and his technical aspects. He published numerous books of technical studies such as *Technische Studien: für das Pianofortespiel*.

[See the [Louis Plaidy Tradition](#)]

Potter, Cipriani

English

London, October 3, 1792 — London, September 26, 1871

Cipriani Potter was a pianist, composer, conductor and teacher. The name Cipriani was taken from his godmother who claimed to be a sister of the painter Giovanni Battista Cipriani, who belonged to the inner circle of J.C. Bach and C.F. Abel. Potter was a cultivated person, spoke four languages and was a mathematician. In Vienna, he met Beethoven, who advised Potter on his scores. Potter offered the first British performances of a number of Mozart concertos. He was an accomplished conductor, always appearing standing and without a baton. In 1822, Potter was appointed the first piano teacher at the Royal Academy of Music. His piano output includes 3 piano concertos, *Sonata op. 3*, *Sonata op. 4*, *Enigma Variations op. 5*, *Three Toccatas op. 9*, *Studies in All the Major and Minor Keys op. 19* and a handful of other compositions. Potter produced score editions of various composers including the complete piano music of Mozart.

[See the [Cipriani Potter Tradition](#)]

Walton Perkins

American

Rome, New York, November 16, 1847 — Chicago, February 8, 1929

Walton Perkins was a pianist and educator. He studied with S.B. Mills, Alfred H. Pease, Theodor Kullak and Anton Rubinstein. In Chicago, he helped William Sherwood in the foundation of the Sherwood School of Music in 1897. From 1907, he was the president of the Chicago Conservatory of Music. He composed a number of piano works.

Weber, Carl Maria von

German

Eutin, probably November 18, 1786 — London, June 5, 1826

Carl Maria von Weber was a composer. He was a greatly influential figure in the development of German Romantic opera. His father founded the Weber Theatre Company in Hamburg. Weber spent most of his childhood travelling with the company throughout Bavaria. He composed his first opera at the age of 13. His most relevant pianistic influence came from Johann Peter Heuschkel. He also studied with Michael Haydn. Among other works, he composed piano concertos and sonatas. W.A. Mozart's wife, Constanze, was a cousin of Weber.

Rubinstein, Anton

Russian

Vikhvatintsi, Ukraine, November 16 or 28, 1829 — Peterhof, now Petrodvoret, November 8 or 20, 1894

Pianist, conductor, composer and teacher, he was a colossus of the piano and regarded an equal to Liszt. He had a tremendous impact on Russian's musical life and education that lasts until today, establishing the pedagogical and interpretative principles of what came to be known as the Russian School of pianism. His early piano instruction came from his mother and, subsequently, Alexander Villoing taught the child prodigy and took him on an extended concert tour all over Europe, meeting Chopin, Liszt, Mendelssohn and Meyerbeer. In 1848, the Grand Duchess Yelena Pavlina took interest in the young pianist, offering him lodging quarters in one of her palaces, having him perform for the tsar's family and, years after, envisioning and planning together a revolution in the musical education in Russia. As a result, they founded the Russian Musical Society in 1859 and the Saint Petersburg Conservatory in 1862. He embarked on several extended concert tours including one in the USA with Wieniawski in which they played over 215 recitals in a period of about 8 months. His repertoire was humongous, as the seven historical recitals he gave in Europe and Russia between 1885 and 1886, encompassing all the history of the piano literature. His piano output is extensive, including five piano concertos, four piano sonatas, *Tarantella*, *Six Preludes*, *Suite* and the famous *Melody in F op. 3 no. 1*.

[See the [Anton Rubinstein Tradition](#)]

Rubinstein, Nikolay

Russian

Moscow, June 2 or 14, 1835 — Paris, March 11 or 23, 1881

Pianist, conductor and teacher, he was the brother of Anton Rubinstein. He opened the Moscow branch of the Russian Musical Society in 1859, which later became the Moscow Conservatory, with Tchaikovsky among its teachers. He toured Russia as a child with Alexander Villoing and also studied medicine at Moscow University in order to avoid enlisting in the army. He was a superb pianist and teacher although, as did his brother, used to yell at his students. He died of consumption in a hotel in Paris. Tchaikovsky dedicated to him his *Piano Trio in A minor*.

[See the [Nikolay Rubinstein](#) Tradition]

Scharwenka, Franz Xaver

Polish-German

Samter, now Szamotuły, January 6, 1850 — Berlin, December 8, 1924

A prominent figure in the European musical scene of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, he was basically self-taught until he entered Kullak's Neue Akademie der Tonkunst in Berlin in 1865, where he also taught. He was forced to interrupt his career due to the military service and, subsequently, he concertized in Europe, USA and Canada, crossing the Atlantic over 26 times by 1914. He founded in Berlin the Scharwenka Conservatory, for a time merged with Klindworth's school, and lived for a few years in New York where he also opened a branch of his conservatory. He contributed to the foundation of the Music Teachers' Federation in 1900 and the Federation of German Performing Artists in 1912. His compositions include his popular *Piano Concerto in B flat minor* and the *Polish dance op. 3 no. 1* as well as two sonatas and technical studies such as the *Methodik des Klavierspiels*, published in 1907 in Leipzig. He made a few acoustical recordings for Columbia and piano rolls.

[See the [Xaver Scharwenka](#) Tradition]

Pérez Sentenat, César

Cuban

Havana, November 18, 1896 — Havana, May 4, 1973

César Pérez Sentenat was a pianist. In 1922, he was appointed professor at the Conservatorio Nacional in Havana and, in 1940, associate professor at the Sherwood Music School in Chicago. In 1931, he founded the Escuela Normal de Música with Amadeo Roldán. Sentenat also held positions as Provincial Music Inspector, General Inspector and Music Director for the National Music Council of Culture. He also taught at the Conservatorio Guillermo Tomás in Guanabacoa. Along Gonzalo Roig and Ernesto Lecuona, Sentenat founded the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional of Havana and, with Roldán, the Orquesta Filarmónica of Havana. His piano compositions include *Suite cubana*, *Carnaval humorístico*, *Dos estampas españolas* y *Preludio en todos los tonos*.

Silas Edouard

Dutch

Amsterdam, August 22, 1827 — London, February 8, 1909

Edouard Silas was a pianist, organist and composer. He studied with Louis Lacombe and Frédéric Kalkbrenner. He settled in London in 1850, where he became organist at the Roman Catholic chapel in Kingston upon Thames. He composed dances, impromptus and nocturnes for the piano, and two works for piano and orchestra dedicated to Anton Rubinstein, *Fantasia* and *Elégie*.

Sternberg, Constantin

Russian

Saint Petersburg, July 9, 1852 — Philadelphia, March 31, 1924

Court pianist in Mecklenburg, he concertized in Europe, Russia, Egypt, Asia Minor and in the United States. He was director of the College of Music at the Atlanta Female Academy and organized a Wagner Festival in Atlanta in 1888. He edited music for Schirmer and published articles on Musical Quarterly. He premiered Xaver Scharwenka's *Second Piano Concerto* in the USA.

Thalberg, Sigismond

German or Austrian

Pâquis, near Geneva, January 8, 1812 — Posillipo, near Naples, April 27, 1871

Sigismond Thalberg was a pianist and composer. He was, next to Franz Liszt, the greatest virtuoso of the mid-nineteenth century in Europe. He played almost exclusively his own compositions, which were mainly fantasias based on opera themes by Rossini, Meyerbeer, Donizetti and Verdi. Although he initially went to Vienna to study for diplomatic service, he became a touring and successful pianist, travelling all over Europe, Brazil, Havana and the United States, where he lived and taught for a few years. His "three-hand effect" technique became very popular. His didactic work *L'art du chant appliqué au piano* reveals Thalberg's ability to combine the brilliance of the execution with his preoccupation with imbuing the bel canto into his playing. He married the daughter of Luigi Lablache, an opera singer. He spent the last few years of his life in a villa in Italy as a viticulturist.

[See the [Sigismond Thalberg Tradition](#)]

Turina Pérez, Joaquín

Spanish

Seville, December 9, 1882 — Madrid, January 14, 1949

Joaquín Turina was a composer. His father was a painter of Italian ancestry. He studied with Enrique Rodríguez, José Tragó and with Moritz Moszkowski in Paris. In the French city, he performed with the Parent Quartet. He was a friend of Manuel de Falla who influenced him musically. He taught composition at the Madrid Conservatory from 1930 and was choirmaster at the Teatro Real. In 1941, Turina was appointed Comisario General de la Música. His extensive piano output

includes *Sonata romántica*, *Rincones sevillanos*, *Mujeres españolas* and *Danzas fantásticas*.

Uchida, Mitsuko

Japanese

Atami, near Tokyo, December 20, 1948

Mitsuko Uchida is a pianist. She moved to Vienna at the age of 12. She studied with Richard Hauser, Wilhelm Kempff and Stefan Askenase. She was awarded at the Leeds International Piano Competition, Beethoven Competition and Chopin Competition. She is a major performer of the Classical composers and has offered complete cycles of the Mozart sonatas and concerti. In 2009, she was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire. She records exclusively for Decca.

Vianna da Motta, José

Portuguese

Santo Tomé, April 22, 1868 — Lisbon, June 1, 1948

Regarded as the father of the piano in Portugal, he trained many generations of accomplished pianists. He went on extensive concert tours in Europe, United States and South America, sometimes performing four works with orchestra on the same program. His music editions include works of Bach and Liszt, in collaboration with Busoni, with whom he performed on two-piano recitals. His performance in 1927 of the complete Beethoven sonatas was a landmark in Portugal's music history. Among his piano compositions are the *Ballada op. 16*, a piano concerto and a transcription for piano solo of Alkan's *Treize Prières* for pedal piano. He also made a few recordings. He succeeded Bernhard Stavenhagen as professor at the Geneva Conservatory.

[See the [Vianna da Motta Tradition](#)]

Wild, Earl

American

Pittsburgh, November 26, 1915 — Palm Springs, California, January 23, 2010

Considered as one of the last pianists from the Romantic tradition, he was endowed with extraordinary sight-reading skills and technique, which obtained him his first jobs as a pianist for the Pittsburgh Orchestra, under Klemperer, and for the NBC Orchestra, under Toscanini. He premiered piano concertos by Paul Creston and Marvin David Levy, and Martinu *Cello Sonata no. 2*. His vast discography comprises over 30 piano concertos and 600 piano works, including pieces by Herz, Medtner, Scharwenka, Paderewski, Moszkowski and D'Albert. As a composer, he wrote symphonic, choral and piano works including the *Doo-Dah Variations* for piano and orchestra, and also virtuoso transcriptions of works by Gershwin, Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky.

[See the [Earl Wild Tradition](#)]

Winter-Hjelm, Otto

Norwegian

Christiania, now Oslo, October 8, 1837 — Christiania, May 3, 1931

Composer and writer of musicological subjects, he opened the first Norwegian school music in 1867 along with Edvard Grieg. For a few years, he was director of the Philharmonic Society. Among his works, there are two symphonies and a few piano pieces.

Wölfl, Joseph

Austrian

Salzburg, December 24, 1773 — London, May 21, 1812

Joseph Wölfl was a pianist and composer. His first musical studies were under Leopold Mozart and Michael Haydn. In 1790, he moved to Vienna where he possibly studied with W.A. Mozart. Wölfl was appointed composer to Count Ogiński in Warsaw. He was for a time considered the only rival of Beethoven. In 1805, he settled in London. He composed over 30 keyboard sonatas, *Fantaisie op. 18, no. 3*, variations, rondos, dances, marches and a *Méthode de pianoforte*.

Zimmermann, Pierre-Joseph-Guillaume

French

Paris, March 19?, 1785 — Paris, October 29, 1853

Pierre Zimmermann was a pianist, teacher and composer. His father was a Parisian piano maker. Zimmermann entered the Paris Conservatoire in 1798, where he became a student of Boieldieu and won the Premier Prix in 1800, surpassing Frédéric Kalkbrenner. He started teaching at the Conservatoire in 1811. Charles Gounod was his son-in-law. He published the *Encyclopédie du pianist* in 1840.

[See the [Pierre Zimmermann Tradition](#)]