Museum Masterpieces

10 Piano Solos Inspired by Great Works of Art

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Catherine Rollin

As a child, I was very fortunate to have wonderful parents who loved the arts and viewed culture as something essential to life. They frequently took me to concerts, plays, operas, and our city's art museum, the Detroit Institute of Arts. It was there where I first became aware of the power of the visual arts. The greatest journey one can take is the one that my parents fostered in me—the journey into the world of creativity and imagination. It is through the arts that human beings create and reach beyond the ordinary experiences of daily life and the best of human potential is reached.

In Museum Masterpieces, I have composed music inspired by paintings that have moved me and taken me on that creative journey. These paintings are shown on pages 13–16. See the first page of each composition for the painting's corresponding page number. I hope that students enjoy these pieces and experience the profound interconnection between these two worlds of the arts.

Warmest wishes,

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Cirque (Circus) / Artist: Georges Seurat (1859-1891)
Girl with a Pearl Earring / Artist: Johannes Vermeer (1632-1675)
Jeunes filles au piano (Young Girls at the Piano) /
Artist: Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841–1919)
La charmeuse de serpents (The Snake Charmer) / Artist: Henri Rousseau (1844-1910) 1
Noah's Ark / Artist; Edward Hicks (1780-1849)
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Primavera (Spring) / Artist: Sandro Botticelli (c. 1445-1510)
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Washington Crossing the Delaware / Artist: Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze (1816-1868)
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