

Piano Quintets

John Sondquist (1996, revised 2015)

Here are a selection of piano quartets from the Classical, Romantic and Contemporary periods.

CLASSICAL

Boccherini, Luigi, 1743-1805

- Quintet no. 6, opus 57 (posthumous) for two violins, viola, cello and piano.
Relatively easy

Beethoven, Ludwig van, 1770-1827

- Quintet for piano, oboe, clarinet, horn, bassoon, op. 16, Eb major
Inspired by Mozart's quintet K.452

Hummel, Johann Nepomuk, 1778-1837

- Quintet for piano, violin, viola, violoncello, double bass, op.87, Eb minor.

Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus, 1756-1791

- Quintet in E flat major, K.452, for piano, oboe, clarinet, horn and bassoon
One of Mozart's very best. Unequaled!

Schubert, Franz, 1797-1828

- Quintet for, piano, violin, viola, violoncello, double bass, D. 667, A Major ("Trout")
Wonderful. The best for this combination.

ROMANTIC

Brahms, Johannes, 1833-1897

- Quintet for piano, two violins, viola and violincello op. 34, F minor.
Difficult, but very rewarding

Bruch, Max, 1838-1920

- Quintet for piano, two violins, viola and violincello
Relatively easy, written for amateur performance. Good Bruch, but not his best.

Dohnanyi, Erno, 1877-1960

- Quintet, C minor, op. 1. For piano, 2 violins, viola, and cello.
Quite playable. 5/4 last movement is fun.
- Quintet, E flat minor, op. 26. For piano, 2 violins, viola, and cello.
Strings will object to key signature, but well worth the effort.

Dvorak, Antonin, 1841-1904

- Quintet in A major Op. 81. For piano, 2 violins, viola, and cello.
Great work. Many tunes per square inch. Hard 1st violin part.

Franck, Cesar, 1822-1890

- Quintet in F minor. For piano, 2 violins, viola, and cello.
Hard for everyone, but very rewarding.

Herzogenberg, Heinrich, Freiherr von, 1843-1900

- Quintet, op. 43, for oboe, clarinet, horn, bassoon and pianoforte.
Fun, but no match for the Mozart or Beethoven.

Goetz, Hermann, 1840-1876

- Quintet for piano, violin, viola, violoncello, double bass, op. 16, C minor
Brahms contemporary. Good work.

Schumann, Robert, 1810-1856

- Quintet for piano, 2 violins, viola, and cello, op. 44, Eb major.
One of Schumann's finest. Rewarding for everyone.

CONTEMPORARY

Beach, H. H. A., Mrs., 1867-1944.

- Quintet in F-sharp minor : for piano and strings, op. 67
Hard, but deserves to be played more often.

Berkeley, Lennox, Sir, 1903-

- Quintet : op. 90 for oboe, clarinet, horn, bassoon & piano
Rewarding to play.

Bridge, Frank, 1879-1941.

- Quintet, for piano, two violins, viola, & violoncello.
Hard, but deserves to be played more often.

Elgar, Edward, 1857-1934.

- Piano quintet, A minor, op. 84.
Semi-romantic. Some wonderful sound.

Martin, Frank, 1890-1974.

- Quintette : pour piano, deux violons, alto et violoncelle
Absolutely delightful piece!

Shostakovich, Dmitrii Dmitrievich, 1906-1975.

- Quintet for two violins, viola, violoncello, and piano, op. 57 [G minor].
Hard to put together, but very rewarding.