

The piano pieces Aimi is performing showcase three distinct music genres: Allegro by Seixas of the Baroque era (17th–18th century), Sostenuto in E flat by Chopin of the Romantic era (19th century), and Staccato Beans by Tan Dun of the contemporary era.

Seixas (1704–1742)



Chopin (1810–1849)



Tan Dun (1957–)



Allegro (1st Movement from Toccata No. 8 in F), by Seixas

Carlos de Seixas (1704–1742) of the Baroque era was the most prominent Portuguese composer and accomplished organist and harpsichordist of his day. He wrote mainly for the keyboard, particularly toccatas (sonatas), many of which were destroyed in the earthquake that devastated Lisbon in 1755. Toccata No. 8 - Allegro, a lively first movement that requires good finger work, dexterity as well as touch displays an exhilarating character and excitement.

Sostenuto in E-flat, KKIVb No. 10, by Chopin

Frédéric Chopin (1810–1849), Polish-French composer and pianist of the Romantic period, is best known for his solo pieces for piano and his piano concerti. Although he wrote little but piano works, many of them brief, Chopin ranks as one of music's greatest tone poets by reason of his superfine imagination and fastidious craftsmanship. In 1941, when Dr. Jacques Chailley discovered Sostenuto in E flat, it had no title and bore no inscription apart from a date of 20 July, 1840. Sostenuto literally means "sustained", with implications of a smoother, more lyrical approach than a waltz.

Staccato Beans (No. 2 from Eight Memories in Watercolor), by Tan Dun

Tan Dun, born in 1957 in central Hunan, China, has made an indelible mark on the world's music scene with a creative repertoire that spans the boundaries of classical music, multimedia performance, and Eastern and Western traditions. Tan Dun is a winner of today's most prestigious honours, including the Grammy Award and Oscar/Academy Award. Staccato Beans is a piece that requires agility and a certain amount of daring, since there are frequent leaps from one register to another – indeed one of the attractive qualities of the music is its wide-ranging compass. The style of Staccato Beans very much reflects the folk music of China in its use of rhythms and choice of whole tone scales and yet there is also some suggestion of the influence of Western music in the idiomatic writing for the piano.