

A Perfect



10

10 Piano Solos in 10 Styles

Melody Bober

What could be more exhilarating than receiving the score of a perfect “10”? Olympic athletes, as well as competitors in sports, dance, and music, strive for those high marks. In fact, we all work to achieve perfection in the activities we enjoy. Wouldn’t it be wonderful to find a resource that offers pianists a chance to shine at any level—solos in all styles and from all periods of music history that promote technical skills and offer the dream to succeed in performance?

Introducing *A Perfect 10*, Book 5, a collection of solos designed to promote musical excellence for the late-intermediate pianist. I chose a favorite teaching piece from the four stylistic periods—Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Contemporary. I then wrote six original pieces in jazz, blues, ragtime, Latin, ballad, and showstopper styles. These 10 solos provide students with technical challenges as well as expressive opportunities for musical growth in mood, rhythm, melody, harmony, form, articulation, and dynamics.

You do not have to be an Olympic hopeful to achieve a perfect “10,” but you might feel like one as you practice and perform these selections!

Best wishes for successful music making,

Melody Bober

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Rose Tango

Latin

Melody Bober

Spirited (♩ = 116)

8va

f

mf

4

7

mf

10

p

28

5 2 1 3 2 3 1 2 1 *mp*

31

8va 2 1 *f*

5 2 1 2 1 2 5

34

4 4 1 4 2 3

37

4 3 2 1

30

Musical score for measures 30-33. The piece is in A major (two sharps). Measure 30 features a melodic line in the right hand with a slur over the first two measures and a fermata over the last note. The left hand provides a bass line with chords. Measure 31 continues the melodic line. Measure 32 shows a crescendo hairpin leading to a fortissimo (f) dynamic in measure 33, where the right hand has a chordal texture.

34

Musical score for measures 34-37. Measure 34 has a right-hand melodic line with a slur and a fermata. Measure 35 continues with a similar melodic line. Measure 36 features a right-hand melodic line with a slur and a fermata, and a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 37 concludes with a right-hand melodic line with a slur and a fermata, and a triplet of eighth notes.

38

to Coda ⊕

Musical score for measures 38-41. Measure 38 has a right-hand melodic line with a slur and a fermata, and a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 39 continues with a similar melodic line. Measure 40 features a right-hand melodic line with a slur and a fermata, and a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 41 concludes with a right-hand melodic line with a slur and a fermata, and a triplet of eighth notes. The dynamic is marked mezzo-piano (mp).

42

Musical score for measures 42-45. Measure 42 has a right-hand melodic line with a slur and a fermata, and a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 43 continues with a similar melodic line. Measure 44 features a right-hand melodic line with a slur and a fermata, and a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 45 concludes with a right-hand melodic line with a slur and a fermata, and a triplet of eighth notes. The dynamic is marked mezzo-piano (mp).

Solfeggio in C Minor

Baroque

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach
(1714–1788)

Presto

Musical score for Solfeggio in C Minor by Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, Baroque style, Presto tempo. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of four systems of music for piano. The first system starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and includes fingerings for the right hand (RH) and left hand (LH). The second system starts with a measure number 3. The third system starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and includes fingerings for both hands. The fourth system starts with a measure number 7. The score features various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and includes fingerings and articulation marks throughout.

For Seth and Sarah Vander Kooi

A Walk through Boston Common

Boston Common is a public park located in the center of Boston, Massachusetts. Almost 50 acres in size, it became the first American public park in 1634 and was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1987. The Common is part of the Freedom Trail, a path through downtown Boston that leads to 16 significant historic sites.

Bernadine Johnson

Andante (♩ = 72)

The first system of the piece is in 4/4 time, marked Andante with a tempo of ♩ = 72. It features a treble and bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The music begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The first four measures are grouped by a slur, with fingering numbers 5, 1, 3, 1, 5, 1, 4, and 2 above the notes. The fifth measure is marked *rit.* (ritardando). The final two measures are marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The bass line consists of simple chords and single notes, with fingering numbers 1/5, 1/5, 1/5, 1/4, and 1/5 indicated below.

Moderately (♩ = 84-100)

The second system begins at measure 5, marked Moderately with a tempo of ♩ = 84-100. It continues in 4/4 time with the same key signature. The music is marked *p* (piano). The first four measures are grouped by a slur, with fingering numbers 5, 2, 1, 5, 2, 1, 2, and 1 above the notes. The fifth measure is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The bass line features a steady eighth-note accompaniment, with fingering numbers 5, 2, 1, 5, 2, 1, 2, and 1 indicated below.

The third system begins at measure 9, marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). It continues in 4/4 time with the same key signature. The music is marked *poco rit.* (poco ritardando). The first four measures are grouped by a slur, with fingering numbers 3, 5, 1, and 5 above the notes. The fifth measure is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The bass line features a steady eighth-note accompaniment, with fingering numbers 2, 1/5, and 2 indicated below.

The fourth system begins at measure 13, marked *a tempo*. It continues in 4/4 time with the same key signature. The music is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The first four measures are grouped by a slur, with fingering numbers 2, 1, 5, and 2 above the notes. The fifth measure is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The bass line features a steady eighth-note accompaniment, with fingering numbers 5, 2, 2, and 1 indicated below.

Nantucket Nocturne

Nantucket is an historic island located 30 miles off the coast of Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Although it is only 14 miles long and 3.5 miles wide, Nantucket has over 80 miles of beaches. During the summer, the population of the island swells from 10,000 to 50,000 due to tourists and summer residents who enjoy its beautiful sunsets, landscapes, harbors, and historic homes.

Bernadine Johnson

Con sentimento (♩ = 48)

First system of musical notation for Nantucket Nocturne. The piece is in 6/8 time with a tempo of ♩ = 48. The first system includes a treble clef and a bass clef. The bass line has fingerings 5, 2, 1, 2, 3. Dynamics include *p*, *mp*, and *simile*. Fingerings 1, 3-1, and 1 are shown above the treble line.

Second system of musical notation for Nantucket Nocturne. The piece is in 6/8 time with a tempo of ♩ = 48. The second system includes a treble clef and a bass clef. The bass line has fingerings 5, 2, 1, 2, 1 and 5, 2, 1, 2, 3. Dynamics include *p*. Fingerings 3-1, 1, 3-1, and 2 are shown above the treble line.

Third system of musical notation for Nantucket Nocturne. The piece is in 6/8 time with a tempo of ♩ = 48. The third system includes a treble clef and a bass clef. The bass line has fingerings 5, 2, 1, 2, 3, 1 and 1. Dynamics include *p* and *poco rit.* Fingerings 3, 1, 4, 1, and 1 are shown above the treble line.

a tempo

Fourth system of musical notation for Nantucket Nocturne. The piece is in 6/8 time with a tempo of ♩ = 48. The fourth system includes a treble clef and a bass clef. The bass line has fingerings 5, 2, 1, 2, 3, 1 and 1. Dynamics include *mp* and *p*. Fingerings 4-1, 3, 5, 4, 2, 3, 2, 1, 1, 3-1, 1, 4, 3, 2, 1, 3, 2, and 1 are shown above the treble line.

The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere

Paul Revere (1734–1818) was a prosperous and important Boston silversmith. He is famous for his midnight ride from Charlestown to Lexington in April of 1775 to alert the Colonial army about the approaching British forces. His ride was later dramatized in the well-known poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807–1882), *Paul Revere's Ride*.

Bernadine Johnson

Vivace spiritoso (♩ = 144)

5

9

13

sfz

p

f

p

f

mp

mf

simile

ff pesante

mf

8va -

8va -

8va -

8va -

8va -

All Aboard

Massachusetts has made several major contributions to the advancement of the railway system. The first commercial railway in the United States was constructed in Quincy in 1826 to carry the granite used to erect the Bunker Hill Monument in Charleston. The Boston & West Worcester Railroad was the first to charge commuter fares beginning in 1938. The first subway system in the United States was built in 1897 in Boston.

Bernadine Johnson

All aboard! (♩ = 96) Starting to move (♩ = 116) (♩♩ = ♩³)

f *rit.* *p* *pulling out of the station*

5 3 1 5 3 1 3 2 1 5 2 1 3 2 1

5 3 1 5 3 1 3 2 1 5 3 1

2 5 1 5 1 5

5 3 2 1 5 2 1 3 2 1

8 5 2 1 2 3 2 3 1 2 3

11 5 3 1 5 3 1 3 2 1 5 3 1

2 5 1 5 1

Piano Extravaganza

Solo Book 3

8 Late Intermediate Pieces
in a Variety of Styles

ROBERT D. VANDALL

Part of the definition of the word “extravaganza” is “an exciting show or event featuring extreme freedom of style and structure.” Each solo in *Piano Extravaganza* features pianistic freedom within the style and form of the piece. Even when the hands move freely around the keyboard, my goal was to keep the technique required to play each piece within limited boundaries to ensure student success. I wanted the solos to feel comfortable in the hands, yet sound good and impressive to an audience. In addition, students playing the pieces should feel that they are creating interesting, yet worthwhile musical experiences, whether the piece is slow and introspective or fast and brilliant.

I hope that teachers, students, and audiences alike enjoy each musical extravaganza in this book.

Robert D. Vandall

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Flames

Robert D. Vandall

Very fast; with fire! (♩ = ca. 184)

Musical notation for measures 1-3. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The tempo is 'Very fast; with fire!' at approximately 184 beats per minute. The first system consists of three measures. The right hand (RH) features a rapid eighth-note pattern with fingerings 1, 3, 5, 2, 1, 3, 5, 1, 3, 1. The left hand (LH) provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with notes G2, Bb2, and D3. Dynamics include *mf* and *fz*. The first measure has a dynamic of *mf*. The second measure has a dynamic of *fz*. The third measure has a dynamic of *fz*. The first measure has a dynamic of *mf*. The second measure has a dynamic of *fz*. The third measure has a dynamic of *fz*.

Musical notation for measures 4-7. The right hand (RH) continues the eighth-note pattern with fingerings 3, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1. The left hand (LH) continues the harmonic accompaniment. Dynamics include *sfz* and *fz*. The first measure has a dynamic of *sfz*. The second measure has a dynamic of *fz*. The third measure has a dynamic of *fz*. The fourth measure has a dynamic of *fz*.

Musical notation for measures 8-11. The right hand (RH) continues the eighth-note pattern with fingerings 5, 3, 1, 1, 3, 5, 2, 1, 3, 5, 2, 1. The left hand (LH) continues the harmonic accompaniment. Dynamics include *sfz* and *f*. The first measure has a dynamic of *sfz*. The second measure has a dynamic of *f*. The third measure has a dynamic of *f*. The fourth measure has a dynamic of *f*.

Musical notation for measures 12-15. The right hand (RH) continues the eighth-note pattern with fingerings 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1. The left hand (LH) continues the harmonic accompaniment. Dynamics include *ff*. The first measure has a dynamic of *ff*. The second measure has a dynamic of *ff*. The third measure has a dynamic of *ff*. The fourth measure has a dynamic of *ff*. The first measure has a dynamic of *ff*. The second measure has a dynamic of *ff*. The third measure has a dynamic of *ff*. The fourth measure has a dynamic of *ff*.

Missing You

Robert D. Vandall

Moderately fast; with much rhythmic freedom (♩ = ca. 96)

cantabile
mf

sim.

6

f

p

12

mf

dim. e rit.

17

più mosso
mp

poco rit.

a tempo

1 2 4
5

1 3 2 3 1 3

1 2 4

1 2 5

Storm Warning

Robert D. Vandall

Fast and driving forward ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 92$)

f cantabile

5

4 3 1

5 2

9

4 2

13

4 2

Empty Stage Rag

Robert D. Vandall

Moderate tempo (♩ = ca. 100)

The musical score for "Empty Stage Rag" is presented in four systems, each with a piano (right) and bass (left) staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor) and the time signature is 4/4. The piece is marked "Moderate tempo" with a quarter note equal to approximately 100 beats per minute.

System 1 (Measures 1-4): The piano part begins with a dynamic marking of *mp*. Fingerings are indicated above the notes: 5-1, 4-1, 3-1, 5-1, 4-1, 3-1, 5-1, 4-2. The bass part provides a steady accompaniment with chords and single notes.

System 2 (Measures 5-8): The piano part starts at measure 5 with a dynamic marking of *p*. Fingerings include 1, 3, 5, 4, 1, 1, 1, 2. The bass part continues with a similar accompaniment pattern.

System 3 (Measures 9-12): The piano part begins at measure 9 with a dynamic marking of *f*. Fingerings are 5-1, 4-1, 3-1, 2-1, 5-1, 5-1, 3-1, 2-1, 3-1. The dynamic changes to *mp* at measure 11. The bass part maintains the accompaniment.

System 4 (Measures 13-16): The piano part starts at measure 13 with a dynamic marking of *f*. Fingerings are 5-1, 3-1, 4-2, 1, 5-3, 1. The dynamic changes to *poco rit.* at measure 15. The bass part concludes the piece with a final chord.

The Meandering Missouri

The Missouri River is the longest river in North America. Flowing from the Rocky Mountains of Montana, the Missouri travels for over 2,000 miles before merging with the Mississippi River near St. Louis, Missouri. Explorers Lewis and Clark, as part of their Corps of Discovery expedition, became the first to travel the river's entire length in 1804–1806.

Tom Gerou

Moderato con moto

1 2 3

p RH 5 3 1 4 3 1 *mp* 3 3

5 1 1 2 5 5

6 5 3 1 4 1 2 3 8va 1 2 3 3

simile

11 1 2 1 4 1 3 3

mf 3 3 3

16 5 3 1 3 5 *dim.* *p*

Black Gold Rag

Since the early 2000s, North Dakota has seen a boom in crude oil production. The oil fields have created a modern “gold rush,” leading to the valuable oil being nicknamed “black gold.” Second only to Texas, the state has become a major oil producer and has experienced an economic and population explosion in what used to be one of the least densely populated states.

Tom Gerou

Allegro moderato

The musical score is written for piano and consists of four systems of music. The first system (measures 1-4) begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and includes a right-hand (RH) section. The second system (measures 5-8) begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The third system (measures 9-12) also begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The fourth system (measures 13-16) continues with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and fingerings.

A Garden of Peace

Founded in 1932, the International Peace Garden lies on the border of North Dakota, United States, and Manitoba, Canada. Created as a symbol of friendship between the two countries, the garden features a 14-chime bell tower that rings while terraced formal gardens with reflecting pools display colorful arrays of over 150,000 flowers.

Tom Gerou

Andante

p

1 2 4 5 1 3 1 4 1 2 3 4

5 1/2 5 1/2 5 5

Detailed description: This system contains the first four measures of the piece. The music is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats. The tempo is marked 'Andante' and the dynamics are 'p'. The right hand features a melodic line with slurs and fingerings (1, 2, 4, 5, 1, 3, 1, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4). The left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes, including fingerings 5, 1/2, 5, 1/2, 5, and 5.

5

1 2 4 5 1 3 1 4 1 2

5 1/2 5 1/2 5

Detailed description: This system contains measures 5 through 8. The musical notation continues from the previous system, maintaining the same melodic and harmonic patterns. Fingerings are indicated above the notes in the right hand and below the notes in the left hand.

9

1 2 4 1 5 2

1/2 5 1/2 1/2 1

Detailed description: This system contains measures 9 through 12. The tempo remains 'Andante'. The dynamics are still 'p'. The melodic line continues with slurs and fingerings. The left hand accompaniment includes some changes in rhythm and dynamics, with fingerings 1/2, 5, 1/2, 1/2, and 1.

13

mp *f* *mf*

1 2 2 1

1 1

Detailed description: This system contains measures 13 through 16. The tempo remains 'Andante'. The dynamics change to 'mp' in measure 13, 'f' in measure 14, and 'mf' in measure 15. The melodic line continues with slurs and fingerings. The left hand accompaniment includes some changes in rhythm and dynamics, with fingerings 1 and 1.

Hurricane!

Hurricanes, also known as tropical cyclones, are massive, rotating storms characterized by heavy rain and sustained wind. In September of 1989, Hurricane Hugo struck Charleston, South Carolina. A Category 4 hurricane, Hugo brought gusts of wind in excess of 100 miles per hour and 20-foot storm surges to the coastal city.

Bold and dramatic (♩ = 112)

Melody Bober

The musical score is presented in four systems, each with a measure number in a box at the beginning of the first staff:

- System 1 (Measures 1-3):** Starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand has a slur over measures 1-3 with fingerings 4 2 1, 5 2 1, and 5. The left hand has a slur over measures 1-3 with fingerings 1 3 5, 1 3 5, and 1. Measure 3 includes a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic marking.
- System 2 (Measures 4-6):** Continues with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand has a slur over measures 4-6 with fingerings 4 2 1 and 5. The left hand has a slur over measures 4-6 with fingerings 1 3 5, 1 3 5, and 1. Measure 6 includes a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic marking.
- System 3 (Measures 7-9):** Features a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic in the right hand and a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic in the left hand. The right hand has a slur over measures 7-9 with fingerings 5 4 3 1 and 5. The left hand has a slur over measures 7-9 with fingerings 1 3 5, 1 3 5, and 1. Measure 9 includes a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic marking.
- System 4 (Measures 10-12):** Marked mezzo-forte (*mf*). The right hand has a slur over measures 10-12 with fingerings 2 1 and 4 1. The left hand has a slur over measures 10-12 with fingerings 5 2 1 2, 1 2, and 5 2 1 2.

A Morning in Congaree

Congaree National Park is one of South Carolina's most delightful treasures. The 26,000-acre park boasts one of the largest hardwood forests in the United States, with some of the tallest trees in North America and one of the highest canopies in the world. Visitors to Congaree can enjoy hiking, camping, canoeing, and bird watching in a beautiful swampland forest untouched by human development.

Melody Bober

Expressively (♩ = 96)

The musical score is presented in four systems, each with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is D major (two sharps) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system begins with the tempo instruction 'Expressively (♩ = 96)' and the dynamic marking 'mp'. It features a melodic line in the treble clef with slurs and ties, and a bass line with fingering numbers (5, 2, 1, 3, 2). The second system starts at measure 4 and includes a boxed measure number '4'. It contains more complex melodic patterns with slurs and ties, and a bass line with various fingering numbers. The third system starts at measure 8 and includes a boxed measure number '8' and the dynamic marking 'mf'. The fourth system starts at measure 11 and includes a boxed measure number '11'. The score concludes with a final chord in the treble clef.

Myrtle Beach Boogie

The coastal city of Myrtle Beach, with its lively boardwalk, thrilling amusement parks, and beautiful beaches, draws over 14 million visitors to the South Carolina shore each year. Located in the middle of a 60-mile stretch of uninterrupted beach called The Grand Strand, the city is home to hundreds of restaurants, shops, and concert venues.

Melody Bober

With excitement (♩ = 116) ♩ = $\overset{\sim}{\underset{\sim}{\underset{\sim}{\text{J}}}}\overset{\sim}{\underset{\sim}{\underset{\sim}{\text{J}}}}\overset{\sim}{\underset{\sim}{\underset{\sim}{\text{J}}}}$

mp

5 8va

4

mf

5 3 3 2 1

5 3 1

7

mf

5 4 2 1

5 3 3 1

10

f

1 3 3 1

5 3 3 1

5 4 2 1 2 1