

Chamber Ensembles with Student-level Piano

Nancy O'Neill Breth and Jean Goberman

Six Songs from *The Beggar's Opera* Violin, Cello, Piano
Hal Leonard 296585

All parts get melody. Piano is Easy Piano level and idiomatic. Two pieces have an easy and harder version of the piano part. Many cello parts require playing in position. Delightful folk melodies.

Sheila M. Nelson

Tunes for My Piano Trio 1 & 2 Violin, Cello, Piano
Boosey & Hawkes (Hal Leonard 48011450)

All parts get melody. Piano is the level of easy classics. Strings remain in first position in Book 1. Book 2 requires some shifting and is harder rhythmically. The pieces are interesting and include classical arrangements. Sheila Nelson also has many effective and versatile string-only ensembles.

Eugénie R. Rocherolle

A Tableau of Piano Trios of Piano Trios
A Christmas Tableau of Piano Trios Violin, Cello, Piano
Kjos GP374 , GP376

Piano almost never has melody but is interesting and idiomatic to the instrument. The Christmas book is slightly easier with only one piece in flats and all string parts playable in first position. Pieces are enjoyable.

Catherine McMichael

The Rose Quartet 2 Violins, (opt. violin 3 or viola), Cello, Piano
Camellia Music

Piano is accompaniment, but the movements are popular with students. *Pax* is based on the same progression as Pachelbel's *Canon in D*. Catherine McMichael has another piano chamber ensembles listed on her web site. She responds when contacted. www.catherinemcmichael.com

Joanne Haroutounian

Chamber Music Sampler (3 volumes) Violin, Cello, Piano
Kjos WP324, WP325, WP326

Easy movements from classical piano trios. The books progress in difficulty. Piano parts range from sonatina to easier sonata level. In some, the string parts double the piano. There are instructions for ensemble playing and specific suggestions for the pieces. A good introduction to the repertoire.

Katherine Johnson

Accompanying the Violin Violin, piano
Kjos WP85

Piano progresses in difficulty from sustained chords to the level of early classics. An introduction gives instructions for ensemble playing. Each piece is prefaced with hints on balance, articulation, cuing, etc. Many of the violin parts are in Suzuki books so the violinist may already know the pieces.

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Melody Bober

Suite in Season
Alfred Music 39102

Flute (or violin), Bassoon (or cello), Piano

Piano is late intermediate with typical chord patterns. The ensemble is straightforward rhythmically. There are alternate parts for violin and cello. Intonation a little more challenging for the violinist. Lush romantic and jazzy movements that are ideal for teens.

Dennis Alexander

Dance Suite
Alfred Music 40782

Violin, Cello, Piano

More difficult than the Bober Suite, these two movements definitely dance. They are rhythmically complex with syncopation in the *Introduction and Tango* and hemiola in the *Valse brillante*. A professional performance from the MNTA conference can be viewed on YouTube.

Cornelius Gurlitt

Miniature Trio, op. 181
imslp.org

Violin, Cello, Piano

Available free at IMSLP. Introduction to piano trio style at student level. Melodic material is shared between violin and piano in contrast to other student piano trios which are more like piano sonatinas with obligato string parts.

César Cui, arr. Borch

Orientale, op. 50, no. 9
imslp.org

Violin, Cello, Piano

Available free at IMSLP. All parts get melody. Arrangement of a violin solo that is a student favorite.

Carol Tornquist

Pianist Plus – Christmas
Alfred 33454, 33455

C or B-flat instrument, Piano

Piano is similar to other Christmas and sacred books at the early advanced level. Each piece gives a section of melody to the piano while the instrument plays a countermelody. Separate books for C and B-flat instruments.

Alfred Music

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| <i>Christmas for Two</i> | <i>Treasures for Two</i> | |
| <i>Carols for Two</i> | <i>Folk Songs for Two</i> | |
| <i>Holiday Hits for Two</i> | <i>Spirituals for Two</i> | |
| <i>Classics for Two</i> | <i>Broadway for Two</i> | 2 Voices, Piano |

These also work well as instrumental duets. The piano parts are not demanding. The *Christmas* and *Carols* books often combine two carols or a carol and a classical melody in counterpoint.