

Whirling Leaves
Piano Duet - One Piano, Four Hands
Cathy Stamegna

The idea for Whirling Leaves came from the desire to compose a duet for two friends to play at The Delaware State Music Teachers Association Ensemble Festival. Ellen was my student since the age of six. Her friend, Lindsay, had asked about lessons. I couldn't fit her in at the time and suggested Jean Pyle as a teacher.

Both girls were a joy to teach and get to know. I told Jean about my composition idea and she was enthusiastic. The girls attended each other's lessons to learn the piece. My goal was to get them to play something out of their comfort zone while introducing them to dissonant sounds and driving rhythms. For those reasons, I would grade this on a later Intermediate level, and consider it a good workout for intermediate students. Without Jean's help, I don't think I could have accomplished teaching this piece as smoothly.

I placed both parts on the same page because it is easier to see and execute the rhythms vertically from cues in the other part. *Pedal ad lib.* appears in measure 19 in order to bring out the melodic phrases. However, you may omit or use sparingly for a more percussive sound.

Jean D. Pyle passed in 2020 at the age of 85. She was a friend and a treasure to the music teachers in Delaware. She had a positive outlook, and was fun to be around. Jean will be missed by people of all ages, for she had a way of communicating with and endearing herself to everyone.