

“WOW!”
“Sophisticated”
“Elegant”

Global Impressions

General Impressions on the Pianist Portraits
What People from Around the World See
in Steadman Uhlich’s Unforgettable Portraits™

The following are a few *verbatim* quotes from written notes and letters sent to Steadman Uhlich by people from around the world. Many of these comments came from “hard to impress” professional photographers in 40 different countries. To see these portraits, simply call Steadman to arrange a private and complimentary portfolio viewing.

The entire list of Global Impressions covers over 50 pages of type like this. These are the Global Impressions *on just six portraits of a single pianist!*

The Pianist: Portraits of Jessica

One of these six portraits became “Art” *within 24 hours* of the first public showing! An art collector on the West Coast purchased a large original print for his collection. In that moment, Jessica’s portrait truly became “Art.”

There are several portraits of this pianist on the Steadman Uhlich Fine Art website, starting at http://www.steadmanuhlich.com/introcom/index_027.htm

View the website to see how people from many countries are impressed and *moved* emotionally *by the portraits of people they do not know*. Sixteen people were literally brought to tears.

After looking over this list of Impressions, ask yourself what you or other people see *in your own portraits, of you or your loved ones.*

Global Impressions on Pianist Portraits

What People from Around the World See in Steadman Uhlich's Portraits

Portraits of Jessica

“Perfect. Beautiful portrait, great expression, looks timeless. WOW!”

Sean, New Hampshire, USA

“I gasped when I saw the wide color version. It is extraordinary. Really, it is a **magical portrait.** I have a lot of records, (well, cds now), have seen and studied hundreds of musician portraits and this one is **far and away the best I've ever seen.**

WOW is all I can say.”

Bob, Walla Walla, Washington, USA

“I see a vitality and intelligence shining from her eyes, a strong will coupled with good humor.”

Arun, Los Angeles, California, USA

“I've seen, heard, and played with a lot of pianists over the years and one thing I often notice are their hands. They are almost always **graceful, moving like little ballet dancers over the keys.** The woman in your portrait has those kind of hands. I also know a number of very fine pianists, including a Grammy award winner that in person are very shy and reserved. It's only when actually playing that you realize they "brought a big stick" to the piano. I see shyness in the portrait as well. Kind of **like you caught her in the middle of a piece, she noticed you, and perhaps slightly embarrassed, gave you a quick smile.”**

Bob, Walla Walla, Washinton, USA

“I see joy, grace and passion in this image. Happiness. Confidence.

The woman is somewhere she feels very comfortable. I'd like to hear her music.”

Janna, Sacramento, California, USA

“It is a stunning portrait. A portrait which conveys style and intimacy.”

Simon, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, UK

“A most impressive image.”

“Sophisticated. Her glance over to you indicates her delight and pleasure in surprising you with her ability.

She loves the audience reaction and feeds on the atmosphere of the moment. **She oozes confidence** in what she does best. **Satisfaction.”**

Alan, Yorkshire, UK

“Elegant woman who appears to step into her element when she plays the piano.”

Chelle, Chapamanville, West Virginia, USA

“Although I can see her in a really calm mood, the light, her eyes, the hand in the air and the grand piano **gives me the idea of the forceful passion for music she feels.**

That is a difficult sensation to achieve and capture in a photo.”

Santiago, Buenas Aires, Argentina

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Portraits of Jessica

“She looks like she is enjoying what she is doing and gives me the impression that **she hopes I am also enjoying her music. It is a very welcoming expression** on her face.”

Ethan, Denver, Colorado, USA

“I love this picture. Especially the position of the right hand, at some musical moment, is lovely.”

Mitchell

“My first impression is **"pleasantly surprised"**. As if a curious child has just walked up to investigate where the wonderful sound is coming from.”

Mark, Maple Valley, Washington, USA

“Confident and powerful.”

“My impression is **a sense of a confidence in her craft** and an activity/job that she loves to do.

Great portrait!”

Sacha, Sydney, Australia

“A lovely lady and a very artful composition. Her face glows with her mastery and confidence...the great artists are defiant in their approach to the most demanding music, and nearly mock the instrument as they play.”

John, Seattle, Washington, USA

"Juste avant...

Elle m'a emmené pour un voyage avec sa musique pour seul tapis volant.

Le voyage m'a fait découvrir des émotions nouvelles, fortes et douces. A présent qu'elle sait que la dernière note est sous son doigt, elle guette ma chute, savourant son chef d'oeuvre"

(English Translation Follows)

Just before...

She took me on a musical journey with her music as only flying carpet. The journey let me discover new emotions, sweet and powerful. Now that she know that

the last note is below her finger, she expect my fall, enjoying her masterpiece"

Yves, Brussels, Belgium

“Impish, self-conscious, **someone I'd like an opportunity to get to know.**”

Mike, Liberty Hill, Connecticut, USA

“She might break out laughing because **she is enjoying what she is doing.**”

Dan, Soda Springs, California USA

This is what I see in this picture- **music flowing, releasing emotion.**

The pianist seems to be deep in contemplation.

Teresa, Ogden, Utah, USA

“A very warm and caring piano instructor and good looking too! Lovely. A classic portrait.”

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“This screams classy, and she appears as someone who would want you to pull up a chair next to her and just listen as she plays for the sheer joy of sharing music with another.”

Daniel, Corvallis, Oregon, USA

“Impressionist’ I love it.”

Michael, San Francisco, California, USA

“I see vitality and intelligence shining from her eyes, a strong will coupled with good humor.”

Arun, Los Angeles, California, USA

“I have to say I am stunned at the perfection of the lines in this image.

The expression in her face is one where time has slowed and she is able to ponder her progress while not losing time or intensity. Classical musicians practice hours and hours playing the same piece, or parts of it over and over hoping to achieve perfection. When finally ready to perform they can in a way, let go, or forget all of those hours and just let the music flow. I've heard some performers say that sometimes it seems they are watching themselves play.”

“I see a performance by a true artist. This moment in time that you have captured shows the confidence of hours spent, the artistry of the performer, the joy of the music, and the beauty of the performer when they are all put together.”

“I find myself wondering what she is thinking. She seems to be very focused on her art, and my eye is drawn to hers and back out yonder. Her concentration is clear, her love is defined, she has found it in the keys.”

Geoff, Vernon, Canada

"Oser. **Des milliers de notes, chacune subtilement insérée dans l'ensemble,** partition un peu trop classique pour l'artiste. **Elle sait qu'elle peut le faire,** remettre en question toute son interprétation par cette simple note, début d'un changement, origine d'un nouvel univers musical. Rien qu'un moment, elle hésite. Plus pour longtemps"
(English Translation)

"To dare. **Thousands of notes, each one subtle inserted in the whole music,** score a bit too classical for this artist. **She knows that she is able to do it,** to totally rebuild her interpretation by a unique note, beginning of a major change, origin of a new musical universe. Only one more moment, only one...she's still undecided. Not for a long time anymore.
Yves, Brussels, Belgium

“Intelligent, warm and fun. I wish I had more friends like her. I was affected by all three photographs.”

Bif, Nagoya, Japan

“Superb.”

Sean, Manchester, New Hampshire, USA

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Portraits of Jessica

"She seems **confident** and comfortable with herself. **A great image. All are great. All definitely show what I feel is her true character: A very lovely lady that seems to have a strong connection with her music.**

Rick, Canada

"This is a person deep into something they enjoy - neither a forced concentration nor absent mindedness. The person is aware of the surrounding elements, but doesn't let them take over the mind and disturb. This affects the way she poses - **naturally elegant, relaxed and confident** as opposed to rehearsed, exaggerated pose and forced facial expression.

Dmitri, Nagoya, Japan

You captured the contemplation beautifully... captures an artist in her element. She is poised, in control, but most importantly in love with the music."

Mark, West Bend, Wisconsin, USA

"The woman is playing the instrument while you made the photograph. **I can "hear" the beauty she is making**, even though my monitor is silent I feel there might be pain associated with someone making a photo of her but **the music allows her to open her heart and soul to let the camera see an almost existential beauty. She "wants" people to see the other side of her, and the music is the key."**

Justin, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

"The precise tilt of her back and head, which imply a certain trained strictness of form. **Her expression is unmistakably one of pleasure in mastery, and I detect also that she may be satisfied or proud at the reaction of someone in the room. Her hand is exquisitely poised.** The attitude of the hand and fingers shows a relaxation of tension, as if her hand is leaving the keys. More like she is **caressing the keys. I love it!"**

Jeff, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

"She has a classic beauty that is very serene, with a hint of timelessness caught in the moment."

Michele, British Columbia, Canada

"She has beautiful eyes, so much inside. She seems calm, controlled and confident where she is. She looks like a strong woman to me."

Janna, Sacramento, California, USA

"My impression is one of **calm intensity**--someone who meters the exact amount of effort into her music, but never too much. **She is in control of her piano and not the other way around—the piano is an extension of herself, not an instrument to be played."**

Daniel, Corvallis, Oregon, USA

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“Perfectly captured her inner beauty and brought it to the surface. She does appear to be a **strong, talented, and happy woman.”**

Jeremy, USA

“It captures personality and character.”

Liam, Yorkshire, UK

“The woman exudes confidence and ability, elegance and sophistication. She comes across as **the consummate professional, with worlds of poise and an effortless beauty.** I see this woman on stage with an orchestra, an intimate setting with a string quartet, and **alone, delicately and powerfully transporting her audience to previously unreachd musical heights.** I also get the feeling that she would let the listener "in." By that I mean that **she makes music together with her audience, that it is not just about her, but a shared and joyful experience.”** **If she can play as beautifully as this portrait, I would love to hear her.** I really like this portrait.”

Bob, Walla Walla, Washington, USA

“A beautiful and elegant lady.”

Ashish, Long Beach, California, USA

“This attractive woman is very serious and passionate about her piano. I see a very quiet confidence and strength. I see a more playful side of her. I see a very attractive woman having some fun at the piano and great depth in her eyes.

Kevin, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

“I see someone who is totally immersed in her music. **She is one with her music.** She's totally focused on what she's doing, in a world of her own. The slight smile also tells me that **she loves what she's doing and perhaps she is very satisfied with her ability to render that piece of music that's she's playing. You have captured her essence as a musician, very well. Portraying her as "one with her music.”**

Francis, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

“Listening to discern the perfect tone and pitch of a note. What spoke to me most of all, however, is **her grace and elegance while sitting at the keys.** To see one of my own contemporaries embracing the arts, **with poise beyond her years,** is quite heartening.

I can almost see her character through your photograph -

I believe she is someone I would be proud to call a friend.

Her undeniably genuine smile, only further affirms my belief.

Jonathan, College Park, Maryland, USA

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The eye is drawn irrevocably to the pianist's face and doesn't want to move off of it. Occasionally it strays to revel in the Steinway, which doesn't come off like the usual featureless blob of black in so many photographs. But that is momentary. The pianist's head has a **tight discipline**. There is nothing superfluous, not even a wisp of stray hair. **She is enjoying sharing the music she is creating. The concentration in her eyes is also an invitation to the audience to enter her world. It is also an inspiration to me to work harder and with more patience”**

Arun, Manalapan, New Jersey, USA

“Strong concentration”

"Notophile

Elle est notophile, elle collectionne les croches et les arpèges, les bémol et les demi-tons. Soudain, en contemplant ses chéries elle pense en avoir perdu une. Une petite note, si petite et ténue qu'elle était devenue sa préférée. Elle la cherche, un peu inquiète. La voici, retrouvée, cachée sous une touche du piano"

(English Translation)

"Notophile.

She's a notophil, collecting quavers and arpeggios, flats and semitones. Suddenly, contemplating her beloved notes, she thinks that one is missing. **A little note, so humble that she becomes her favorite. She seeks, a bit worried. Here she is! Found hidden by a key on the piano."**

Yves, Brussels, Belgium

“Pleasant serenity.”

“The images have a life to them.”

“Intense concentration.”

“My impression was immediate, and surprising to me, but still, finding the words are difficult. I think often times artists are by and large solitary people. They may interact with others daily, but they are always alone. They express themselves through music, art, dance, poetry, etc., sometimes because they have to, sometimes because that is all they can do. I've met a lot of musicians. They are often away from home a great deal, come into town a bit road weary, get something to eat, play the gig, and maybe drive to the next town to sleep. These folks live on the road, doing the only thing they know how to do. It's a lonely existence. They're so good, that even on a bad night when the music isn't really happening, it's still very, very good. **Sometimes though, once in a while, at some point during the gig, magic happens. This is the magic you've experienced before, it is the high that keeps you working hoping it will happen again, and then you give it away to anyone who is there. And you smile. I see that smile in this portrait.”**

Bob, Walla Walla, Washington, USA

“She is "crafting her art.” Her **intensity** is obvious. Intuitive, extrospection...at times, **transcendental**. She also **exudes confidence.**”

Dan, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

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"I love your work. **What you capture with eyes and faces is amazing.**"

Gordon, Dallas, Texas, USA

"My compliments to your pianist. **She certainly exudes confidence, mastery of subject and classical expertise.** Your impression work most often "takes me within" your image.

Evokes many mental impressions and visual interpretations.

Very nice work indeed. Your work invokes some deep thought process.

The portrait really hit home. This wonderful woman and pianist could be playing a highly structured piece. Her eyes convey that to me. Her hands are rightfully conveying a dynamic, a texture."

Dan, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

"I like this one because of her gaze into space. I've seen it many times. **Sometimes it happens when the music becomes more than the notes and evolves into something special.** I like this one, and my personal feeling is that the music is very much happening."

"The music seems to come from the light above her head as it flows through her brain and into her hands as the music rages loftily through the room. **There is an intensity to this image that is not forced but simply laid bare.**

Tom, Norwich, Connecticut, USA

"Many times artists seem to be absent when performing...especially in this type of representation..."

It is like they are living in a dream, leaving this world spiritually and mentally.

Physically they are there and you see them, in fact they are not...is like a trance of a medium (i'm not sure i am using the correct words in english...). In moments like this the appearance of an artist might take lots of shapes, from incontrollable smile or grimaces to inert, immobile faces...still, they keep having something in common, they are messengers of another universe, they passed into or even created themselves. So, in this case it might seem like a blind woman playing piano...in fact blind persons are in the exact same position, their reality is different than the one we see. **For me this image is about a woman who passed in a different universe spiritually and just uses her body to translate a message to this world... in this case it is a musical message,** othertimes is about an visual message like a painting born in front of you while you are watching the artist. Some of us may seem as "blind" as this lady while taking pictures as the pianist becomes blind we sometimes become deaf...all our senses shut down except one."

Liviu, Bucharest, Romania

"A lifestyle of discipline, with refinement as the goal. **Graceful and disciplined.** Still full of youthful energy.

Sheila, WA, USA

"She seems strong and independent. She's trained and a professional."

Daniel, Chicago, Illinois, USA

"Entranced. She seems lost within what she's playing. A very beautiful moment."

Jeff, New York, New York, USA

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"Le bruit du silence

Elle regarde l'audience, la défie de troubler ce silence qu'elle va, dans quelques secondes, laisser prendre la place de la musique. Un silence pour préparer l'assaut final des notes enfin libérées de sa mémoire."

(English Translation)

"The sound of silence"

She look to the audience, withstanding for respect for the silence that she will, in a few seconds, let take the place of the music. **A silence to prepare the last assault of the musical notes finally free out of her memory.**"

Yves, Brussels, Belgium

"This actually brought back a lot of memories."

Mark, Maple Valley, Washington, USA

"The pianist has a quiet, elegant beauty."

Peter, Auckland, New Zealand

"I get the sense that I'm not looking at a picture, but I'm sitting on a small Victorian couch with a small group of other people in the room at a private, intimate concert. With this picture, I actually find that I'm missing out by not hearing her play. To me, this image conveys... "Pianist"... not "Lady with Piano"

This one let me imagine I'm in the same room. I'm a musician as well and I'm familiar with "the gaze into nowhere". Sometimes it's while recalling a piece of music, sometimes it's just working out a new chord arrangement and sometimes it's just nice to look out the window. The hands are doing one thing, the mind another and the eyes yet another. This happens frequently."

Matt, Laconia, New Hampshire, USA

Arrangement in Grey and Black

"Formal and regal. I have viewed it four times now over the course of an hour and a half or so, and still can't find the proper words to describe how I feel. So forgive me if my words are clumsy. **Everything about this portrait takes me back to the past if somehow you took a picture of the subject sitting for a painting 75 years ago.** The deliberateness of the pose, (even though I understand she was actually playing) **makes a very strong statement about her feelings toward her music and in a sense, defines who she is as a person. My feeling is this is how she would want to be remembered; a pianist. It illumines some of the majesty of the performing arts, and hints at the rigorous training and practice required to excel at your art.**"

Bob, Walla Walla, Washington, USA

Forte

"Here she is, **captured in the moment she leans forward for more power**, both hands hitting the keys giving her the power required for the piece. **A wonderful portrait.** What really kills me though, is the sheer number of **musical and moving portraits** you have taken of this woman.

I'd be delighted with just one."

Bob, Walla Walla, Washington, USA

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"Satisfied. **It grabs me. I feel she is in the moment. It's great!"**

Jeff, New York, New York, USA

"What I see is "IN"... **it says to me that she is completely one with what she is doing and enjoys it very much.** This portrait says to me she is in that state in which you are the music and its a part of you (or more accurately **you are part of it and nothing else exists**) rather than something you are simply playing. Coming from instinct rather than technical skill (more emotive than recital)."

Burk, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

"You catch some special moments that tell us something about that person in the portrait. You can feel someone inside. You open your soul to the person.

It looks like a Renaissance painting. She looks beautiful, not like a photo, more like a painting.

The longer I looked at these portraits, the more I see.

I imagine if I had one of these in my house, I would see something different in it every time I looked at it.

The "Golden Moment" is **very extraordinary. I am amazed by it! It is mysterious.**

Like a miracle has caused the light. I can see and imagine an autumn day in a forest in afternoon light. I imagine a lake by the forest is reflecting the trees and the light of the setting sun beyond the trees. It makes me feel very calm and relaxed and reminds me of beautiful moments

when I was at my summer house near the Baltic Sea. **It is just a moment you have of her in this portrait, but I feel like I have known her for many years.** Like she is an old friend I haven't seen in a long time.

I feel very close to her and when I look at these portraits of her, I feel like I am watching a friend with her many moods and expressions.

They make me smile when I think of that. I like these portraits very very much. **They are art."**

Oxana, Riga, Latvia

"This looks like a 19th century painting in a museum, not a modern photograph. It looks like a sunset on a lake. Very beautiful.

The pianist is very **beautiful and elegant** too. **She looks intelligent and sensitive and very professional.** It looks like she is talking to the piano and also listening too.

She has a conversation with her piano. It appears she has a subconscious level of intuition with the piano. Like a physician with a patient, connected by knowledge and touch.

Remarkable portraits."

Andre, Kaliningrad, Russia

Impromptu

I really look forward to each new work. Expressive. I see her leaning forward in anticipation of a cue that will trigger her thoughts as to how continue. As a musician improvising, there are things that trigger a direction.

This thought is evident in her eyes as she appears to be actively looking for the cue. **There is the hint of a smile that comes with the enjoyment** of being able to improvise.

Gordon, Dallas, Texas, USA