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The Pianist

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impact on the world. The queasiness in his stomach, it didn't matter. It didn't matter what he ate that morning or the night before. Suddenly he wished he had taken more advantage and pigged out the last few days. But he knew he just hadn't felt very hungry or craved anything really since she had been gone. He found it difficult to eat. The body they would find will have been malnourished and not such a pleasant sight. Not that much of the body would really be visible. Or that anyone's body would be a pretty sight after such a fall as this. He saw the ground approaching. He hoped he would have enough time to have a final thought and that it would be a pleasant one. He thought about her smile.

The Pianist

Wilda Morris

The young Serbian from Germany
with ratty hair who showed up
in Vienna to study with Hayden
was a desultory and dishonest student

but he took Vienna by storm,
participating in the local sport
of piano dueling. No one could match
his ability to force from the keys

of this new instrument an emotional tone
guaranteed to induce tears.
No other musician broke more strings
with his bold *piano forte*.

How humiliating for Beethoven
years later when reviewers said
that he, now almost totally deaf, ruined
the premiere of his Archduke Trio
by playing the piano part himself.