

Famous Artists, Writers, and Composers Who Lived with a Disability

The famous people listed below created their art while living with a disability, not in spite of it:ⁱ

- **Poets:** Yaffa Alter, William Blake, Robert Burns, Emily Dickinson, Gerard Manley Hopkins, Victor Hugo, Samuel Johnson, John Keats, Robert Lowell, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Boris Pasternak, Sylvia Plath, Edgar Allan Poe, Ezra Pound, Anne Sexton, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Sara Teasdale, Alfred, Lord Tennyson, Walt Whitman.
- **Writers:** Hans Christian Anderson, Honoré de Balzac, Kristina Chew, Samuel Clemens, Joseph Conrad, Isak Dinesen, Chay Douangphouxay, Ralph Waldo Emerson, William Faulkner, Graham Greene, Ernest Hemingway, William James, Charles Lamb, Herman Melville, Leroy Moore Jr., Eugene O'Neill, Mary Shelley, Robert Louis Stevenson, Leo Tolstoy, Tennessee Williams, Virginia Woolf, Emile Zola.
- **Composers/ Musicians:** Ludwig Van Beethoven, Robert Berlioz, Andrea Bocelli, Ray Charles, Jacqueline du Pré, Edward Elgar, Stephen Foster, George Frederic Handel, Otto Klemperer, Gustav Mahler, Leroy Moore, Cole Porter, Sergey Rachmaninoff, Robert Schumann, Alexander Scriabin, Peter Tchaikovsky, Stevie Wonder.
- **Artists:** Paul Gauguin, Hugo van der Goes, Vincent van Gogh, Frida Kahlo, Michelangelo, Edvard Munch, Georgia O'Keeffe, Jackson Pollock, Phira Rehm, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Mark Rothko, Chan Tung-mui, Stephen Wiltshire.
- Other ideas:
- Search the Internet for "Artists Disability", "Composers Disability", "Writers Disability", and "Poets Disability" to find other artists, composers, writers, and poets who have disabilities.
- Some local people with disabilities, inside or outside the congregation, may be happy to display, play, or recite some of their work as part of your program.

ⁱ Some of these names come from much longer lists in Appendix B of **Touched with Fire: Manic-Depressive Illness and the Artistic Temperament**, by Kay Redfield Jamison, New York: Free Press Paperbacks, 1994.