



Retelling *her*story

Women Composers to Program and Celebrate

Dr. Susan A. Davis, Queens College, CUNY
December 1, 2023





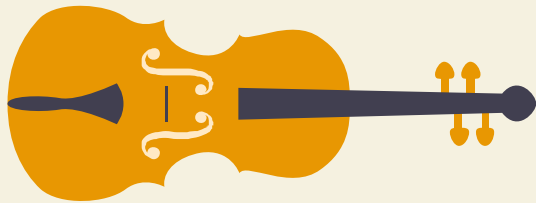


1.

Background

*What women composers have you programmed?
What women composers do you know?*

Representation Matters



Current NYSSMA Women Composers (String List)

Table 2

Composer Frequency

Composer	Frequency
Meyer, R.	28
Mozart, W. A.	19
Bach, J. S.	15
Balmages, B.	13
Newbold, S. H.	12
Del Borgo, E.	9
Tchaikovsky, P.	9
Williams, M.	9
Handel, G. F.	8

Level 1: 7 women

Level 2: 7 women

Level 3: 6 women

Level 4: 3 women

Level 5: 3 women

Level 6: 1 woman

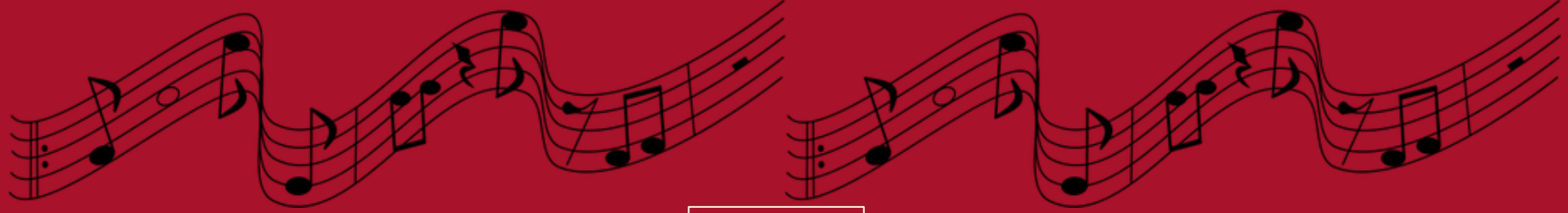
Note. These are the top nine composers
Featured across all six levels for string orchestra.

Current NYSSMA Women Composers (Band List)



@ilovecatgame

Level 1: 4 women
Level 2: 4 women
Level 3: 5 women
Level 4: 6 women
Level 5: 8 women
Level 6: 4 women



“Each time a woman stands up
for herself, without knowing it
possibly, without claiming it,
she stands up for all women.”

Maya Angelou



2.

Women Composers to Celebrate

These are women composers who have composed for or been arranged for strings, symphonic orchestra, concert band and wind ensemble.



Marianna Martines

HerSTORY (1744-1812)

- Founded a singing school
- Held weekly music parties - would play 4-hand piano pieces with Mozart
- Composed vocal music, piano music, sinfonia for orchestra

LISTEN

- [Sinfonia in C Major](#)
- [Dixit Dominus](#)





Maddalena Lombardini-Sirmen

HerSTORY (1745-1818)

- Attended the Ospedale Pietà in Venice
- Studied with Tartini
- Composed violin concerti, string duos, and string quartets

LISTEN

- [String Quartet in Bb](#)
- [String Quartet in E](#)





Queen Lili-uokalani

HerSTORY (1838-1917)

- Last monarch of Hawaii
- Composed Hawaii's 1866 national anthem
- Composed tribute to Queen Victoria for the Queen's Jubilee

LISTEN

- Aloha 'oe (1878)





Francisca “Chiquinha” Gonzaga

HerSTORY (1847-1935)

- First woman conductor in Brazil
- Advocated for end of slavery in Brazil
- Composed the first Brazilian Carnival Song

LISTEN

- [A Sertaneja](#)
- [Corta-Jaca \(concert band\)](#)





Cécile Chaminade

HerSTORY (1857-1944)

- Called “the greatest woman composer”
- Composed 400+ works
- 200+ Clubs established in her name in the US (toured to sold out shows in 1908)

LISTEN

- [Scarf Dance for Strings](#)
- [Concertino for Flute and Wind Ensemble](#)





Helen May Butler

HerSTORY (1867-1957)

- Called “the female Sousa”
- Led 24-piece concert band of women - her All-American Band
- Played for Teddy Roosevelt at the White House and the St. Louis World's Fair

LISTEN

- [Cosmopolitan America](#)



MISS HELEN MAY BUTLER,
Director of the Celebrated Ladies' Military Band.

Image from Billboard, 1902





Florence Price

HerSTORY (1887-1953)

- First African American woman to have music performed by a symphony orchestra (US)
- Composed hundreds of works

LISTEN

- [Adoration](#)
- [Chorales for band](#)
- [Resignation \(SATB Choral\)](#)





Tania León

HerSTORY (1943-)

- Cuban American composer
- Won Pulitzer Prize for *Stride*
- Passionate about education

LISTEN

- [Alegre for Concert Band](#)
- [Stride for Symphony Orchestra](#)





Chen Yi

HerSTORY (1953-)

- Violinist & Composer
- Finalist for Pulitzer Prize in 2006
- Distinguished Professor

LISTEN

- Spring Festival (concert band)
- Chinese Folk Song Suite





Jodie Blackshaw

HerSTORY (1971-)

- Australian Composer and Educator
- Founded ColourFULL Music
- Conservation Series devoted to the climate
- Spreadsheet of 1-4 wind composers

LISTEN

- Moons North
- Lessons from Mother Earth



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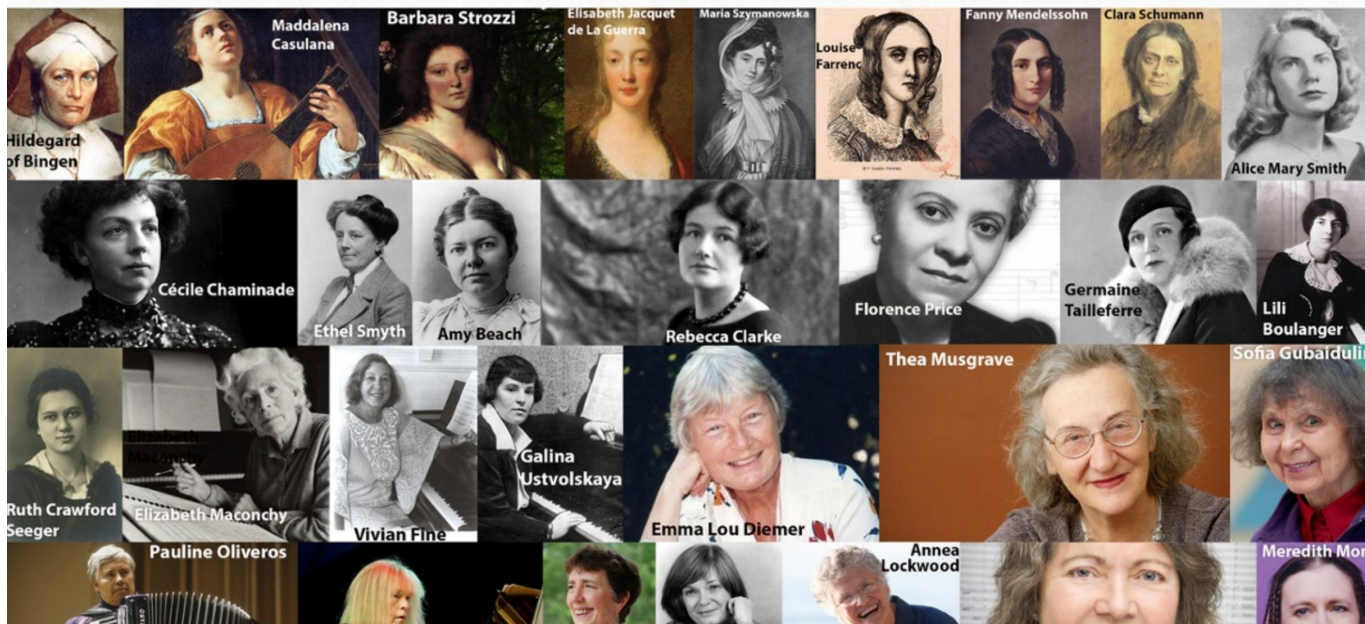
NEWS

ASCAP Deems Taylor/Virgil
Thomson Media/Internet award

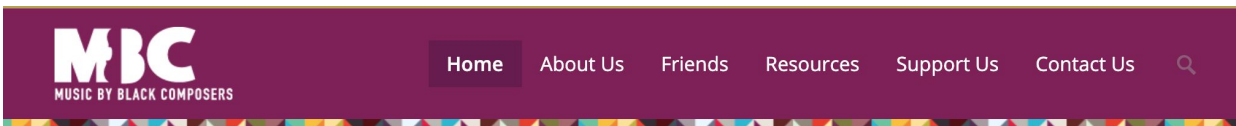
<https://www.thinglink.com/scene/1022922291387826177>

110 Women Composers Linked to YouTube Videos of Their Music

by Roger Gunn and Robert Deemer



musicbyblackcomposers.org



Music by Black Composers

- Inspiring Black students to begin and continue instrumental training.
- Making the music of Black composers available to everyone.
- Helping to change the face of classical music through greater diversity.

Musicology Map of Women Composers



Women Pioneers of the NY Philharmonic



Women String Composers



**Nokuthula
Ngwenyama**



**Jean
Ahn**



**Gabriela
Lena Frank**



**Katie O'Hara
Labrie**



**Kathryn
Griesinger**



**Soon Hee
Newbold**



**Lauren
Bernofsky**



**Shirl Jae
Atwell**



**Yukiko
Nishimura**



Susan H. Day



**Jessie
Montgomery**



**Deborah Baker
Monday**



**Sandra
Dackow**

Women Band Composers



**Alex
Shapiro**



**Julie
Giroux**



**Jodie
Blackshaw**



**Valerie
Coleman**



**Anne
McGinty**



**Lauren
Bernofsky**



**Yukiko
Nishimura**



**Valerie
Capers**



**Katherine
Bergman**



**Chen
Yi**



**Cindy
McTee**

Hildegard Publishing

- Featuring works of women like
 - Bonds
 - Lombardini
 - Schumann
 - Farrenc



Music By Women

Learn the stories of

- Band composers
- Theorists
- Amy Beach
- Elfrida Andrée
- Ethel Smyth
- Avril Coleridge Taylor

And many more



ColourFULL Music (Wind Band)



ColourFULL Music

Seeding the future with music ...

FULL of **colour**
FULL of **tolerance**
FULL of **equality**
FULL of **respect**

Jodie Blackshaw | ColourFULL Australian Composer
jodieblackshaw.com | colourfullmusic.com



Thanks!

ANY QUESTIONS?



You can find me at:

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The background is a dark, textured collage of musical notation, including various notes, clefs, and staves, rendered in shades of brown, gold, and black. A prominent red diamond shape is centered in the image, containing white text. The overall aesthetic is artistic and musical.

women
In
music
#herstory