

Composer Resources for Gender Balanced Programming

This list is a beginning resource to exploring where to find and access diverse music resources. It was originally shared as a resource for Women's History Month; however, the resources below include all composers historically excluded from the choral canon (not only women.) We recognize that composers of all gender identities and backgrounds need to be amplified. This resource is merely a start to improving the gender balance in choral programming. Click the underline text to be sent to the website via a link.

Historical Options:

[A Modern Reveal: Songs and Stories of Women Composers](#)

An online resource dedicated to promoting the vocal works and stories of historical female composers who have been overlooked for centuries (particularly historical composers). Each composer page includes recordings to explore.

[Women Composer Database from Orange County Women's Chorus](#)

This searchable database has over 400 compositions by women composers listed.

[Music Theory Examples by Women](#)

An excellent resource for using music composed by women to explain music theory concepts.

[Artemisia Editions](#)

Publisher dedicated to music from the Italian convents of the 16th and 17th centuries. Most of the music was scored for SATB voicing and the website includes insight as to how the nuns sang the bass part.

General Exploring Resources:

[Donne: The Big List of Women Composers](#)

Phenomenal. This list features more than 5,000 women composers from pre-medieval to 21st century singer-songwriters. You can filter your search to choral music and by era. When you access the composer's page, be sure to click the "External Reference" button as it will send you to info on the composer or the composer's website. This list would be ultimate resource if recording examples were included for each composer.

[Empowering Silenced Voices Database](#) (compiled by Chorosynthesis Singers)

You can search by social conscious themes to find options.

[Institute for Composer Diversity – Choral Database](#)

This project has the potential to be that searchable database we are seeking, but it appears to still in the building process, but it almost 200 songs by women composers (you can search by a number of gender marginalized composers).

[Choral Public Domain Library](#)

You can narrow the search by women composers by clicking the link. CPDL is free!

[Arkiv Frau und Musik](#)

An extensive spreadsheet of choral compositions by women composers from across the globe.

[Canadian Women Composers](#)

An extensive list of composers in Canada including a playlist and repertoire collection.

[Major Choral Works by Women](#)

A google doc with lists of major works

[Choir Music by Women](#)

This page offers some similar resources as listed here, but also has links to some ACDA conferences on the topic

[So You Want to Sing Music by Women Composers: A Guide for Performers](#)

This resource is located on the NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing) and it is comprehensive with numerous chapters that host many links to explore the music, a chapter per genre which includes one for choral music as well as the historical and contemporary challenges of performing the music.

[Boulanger Initiative Database](#)

This open-access Women and Gender Marginalized Composers Repertoire Database is launching March 13, 2023. Boulanger Initiative advocates for women and all gender marginalized composers. We foster inclusivity and representation to expand and enrich the collective understanding of what music is, has been, and can be. We promote music composed by women through performance, education, research, consulting, and commissions.

Treble Choir Resources:

[Repertoire Lists of Women Composers](#) (as performed by Elektra Women's Choir)

This list is an incredible resource of women composers, including many Canadian based composers.

[Repertoire List from Vox Femina Los Angeles](#)

This list has a balanced offering of repertoire, with a dedication to women presenting composers.

[Musica Secreta](#)

This ensemble has shared several obscure and underperformed early repertoire.

[Annotated Dissertation by Dr. Shelbie Wahl: Choral Works for Women's Voices Composed and Texted by Women](#)

A comprehensive resource as there is considerable information included on each work.

Sacred Music Resources:

[Multitude of Voyces: Sacred Music by Women Composers](#)

Published three anthology volumes of music by women composers (historical and living) to be used in a church setting. The website offers perusal scores and listening links to most of the repertoire.

[Amplify Female Composers Project](#)

The website has recordings of music composed by women for every day in Advent and Stations of the Cross. A great resource for church musicians.

[Sarah MacDonald Choral Series](#)

A new and most excellent resource with many incredible composers.

[A Great Host of Composers: Women Composer Database](#)

This site has a spreadsheet with a repertoire suggestion for each Sunday in the lectionary for Year B and C (church musicians – this incredible site is for you!)

Publishers:

[Hildegard Publishing Company](#)

A publisher dedicated to the works of women composers.

[Kassia Choral Series](#) (under Bank Musics Publications)

A choral series highlighting women composers.

[Treble Clef Music Press](#)

A fantastic resource of music by historical composers, but also historical repertoire specifically composed for soprano/alto voices.

[See-a-Dot Music Publishing](#)

The publisher has a wonderfully diverse set of composers to explore.

[MusicSpoke](#)

An artist-owned sheet music distribution. It is an excellent resource for exploring the works of living women-presenting composers.

[Cypress Music Press](#)

This publisher has a listing of all the women identifying composers they publish.

Commission a Living Composer:

Approach a composer to write a work or collaborate on the creation of a work for one of the ensembles you direct. To reduce the cost of commissioning, you can enter into a commission consortium with other directors/ensembles.

Lists of Composers:

Here is a list of some of the incredible composers whose work Consonare has programmed with a link to their repertoire online or website (*indicates composers we have commissioned). A recording has been included for a few of the examples recorded by one of community ensembles or Voices of Concinnity. Click on the underlined name to access the composer's website or information page. Also included is a list of composers whose works are on our lists for future programming:

Historical Works Consonare Choirs Have Programmed:

[Vittoria Aleotti](#) (ca.1570-1646)

[Caterina Assandra](#) (c.1590-c.1618)

[Hildegard von Bingen](#) (1098-1179)

Nadia Boulanger

[Francesca Caccini](#) (1587-1646) - Recording: "[Aure volanti](#)"

[Maddelena Casulana](#) (1544-1590) - Recording: "[Morir non può mio cuore](#)"

[Sulpitia Cesis](#) (1577-after 1619)

[Chiara Margarita Cozzolani](#) (1602-1677)

[Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel](#) (1805-1847) - Recording "[Schone Fremde](#)"

[Isabella Leonarda](#) (1620-1704)

[Clara Schumann](#) (1819-1896)

[Lucrezia Vizzana](#) (1590-1662)

[Undine Smith Moore](#) (1904-1898) - Recording: "[We Shall Walk through the Valley in Peace](#)"

Living Composers Consonare Choirs Have Programmed:

[Kathleen Allan](#)

[Ysaÿe M. Barnwell](#)

[Abbie Betinis](#)

[B.E. Boykin](#)

[Susan Brumfield](#)

[Laurel Christensen](#) - Recording "[I saw a star](#)"

[Eleanor Daley](#) - Recording: "[Love Came Down at Christmas](#)"

*[Melissa Dunphy](#) - Recording: "[Wild Embers](#)", "[Witch-Wife](#)", "[Halcyon Days](#)"

*[Cheryl Engelhardt](#) - Recording: "[Breadth of Blossoms](#)"

[Reena Esmail](#) - Recording "[TaReKiTa](#)"

[Carlotta Ferrari](#)

[Katerina Gimon](#) - Recording: "[All together we are love](#)"

[Elaine Hagenberg](#) - Recording: "[Song of Miriam](#)", "[O Love](#)"

[Lillie Harris](#)

[Ivette Herryman Rodriguez](#)

[Edie Hill](#)

[Tamsin Jones](#)

[Linda Kachelmeier](#)

[Susan LaBarr](#)

[Anna Lapwood](#)

[Stephanie Martin](#)

[Carolyn Quick](#)

[Laura Mvula](#) - Recording "[Sing to the Moon](#)"

Yshani Perinpanayagam
Andrea Ramsey
Sarah Rimkus
Jessica Rudman
Sarah Quartel
Lyndsey Scott
Caroline Shaw - Recording "*Her Beacon Hands Beckon*"
***Karen Siegel**
Moira Smiley - Recording "*Bring me a little Silvey*"
Willametta Spencer - Recording: "*At the Round Earth's Imagined Corners*"
Nancy Telfer
Karen P. Thomas
Dale Trumbore - Recording: "*Perhaps*"
Ellen Gilson Voth
Gwnyeth Walker
Erryollyn Wallen
Tracy Wong
Diana Woolner
Hyowon Woo

Composers on our List for Future for Programming:

Elizabeth Austin - <http://www.elizabethaustinmusic.com>
Amy Beach - <https://www.amybeach.org/about/biography/>
Jasmine Barnes - <https://www.jasminebarnescomposer.com>
Kerensa Briggs - <https://www.kerensabriggs.co.uk>
Andrea Clearfield <http://www.andreaclearfield.com/works/choral/>
Catherine Dalton - <https://catherinedalton.net>
Emma Lou Diemer- <https://www.emmaloudiemermusic.com/catalog.html>
Jocelyn Hagen - <https://www.jocelynhagen.com/list-of-works/>
Imogen Holst
Maryam Khoury -
Libby Larson - <https://libbylarsen.com/>
Sarah MacDonald - <https://www.sarahmacdonald.live/about>
Joanne Metcalf - <http://www.joannemetcalf.com>
Mia Marakoff - <https://www.miamakaroff.com/>
Tawnie Olson - <http://www.tawnieolson.com>
Alice Parker - <https://www.melodiousaccord.org>
Kala Pierson - <http://kalapierson.com/about/index.html>
Rosephanye Powell - <http://rosephanyepowell.com>
Stacey Phillips - www.staceyphilipps.com
Florence Price
Hilary Purrington - <https://hilarypurrington.com/index.html>
Shruthi Rajasekar - <https://www.shruthirajasekar.com>
Zanaida Robles - <https://zanaidarobles.com>
Diana V. Sáez <https://dianavsaez.com/compositions/>
Marie-Claire Saindon - <https://www.marieclairesaindon.com>
Joan Syzmko <https://www.joanszymko.com/works>
Mari Esabel Valverde - <https://marivalverde.com>
Joanna Ward - <https://www.joannamward.com>
Chen Yi - <https://www.presser.com/chen-yi>
Kira Zeeman Rugen - <https://www.kirarugen.com>

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Please ensure you credit appropriately when sharing this information.

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