



AGO Task Force for Gender Equity

# Special Edition Newsletter:



Woman Composer Sunday  
Sunday, March 5th, 2023



As the late Ursula LeGuin said, “We are volcanoes. When we women offer our experience as our truth, all the maps change. There are new mountains. That’s what I want — to hear you erupting. You Mount Saint Helens-es who don’t know the power in you — I want to hear you... If we don’t tell our truth, who will?”

Woman Composer Sunday is fast approaching!  
Remember to post your videos of your playing on  
social media with the hashtag  
[#WomanComposerSunday](#).

Happy Playing!



AGO Task Force for Gender Equity

Nancy Cooper, Director | Michelle Kardos, Newsletter Editor | Mary Newton | Lyn Loewi

Eileen Hunt, AGO President and ex officio member | Leslie Wolf Robb | Vicky Schaeffer

# SUGGESTED ORGAN REPERTOIRE BY WOMEN COMPOSERS

## Some of our favorites!

From Lyn Loewi, Michelle Kardos, Eileen Hunt, and Nancy Cooper,  
with the AGO Task Force for Gender Equity

### **Emma Louise Ashford**

- Collection available on IMSLP
  - [https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Ashford%2C\\_Emma\\_Louise](https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Ashford%2C_Emma_Louise)

### **Marilyn Biery**

- *Organ Meditations on the Love of God*
  - <https://www.morningstarmusic.com/organ-meditations-on-the-love-of-god.html>

### **Mary Beth Bennett**

- “Prelude and Toccata on ‘Kingsfold’” - Selah Publishing Co.
  - <https://selahpub.com/OrganKeyboard/OrganTitles/160-824-PreludeToccataKingsfold.html>
  - Downloadable pdf is available as well as hard copy
- All of it! (some difficult)
- Note: Mary Beth Bennett is a superb organist and improviser. Her *Prelude and Toccata on Kingsfold* is highly inventive with colorful harmonies and rhythmic surprises that pull the listener in. The prelude uses dreamy chord clusters against the cantus firmus. The Toccata is a virtuosic work but playable! Thundering figuration in the hands is offset by the hymn tune in the pedals. I love this piece! Prelude is medium difficulty. Toccata is difficult. - Lyn Loewi

### **Mel Bonis**

- “Toccata”
  - <https://www.free-scores.com/download-sheet-music.php?pdf=54924>
- Collection available on IMSLP
  - [https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Bonis,\\_Mel](https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Bonis,_Mel)

### **Josephine Boulay**

- “Prelude”
  - [https://imslp.org/wiki/3\\_Pi%C3%A8ces\\_\(Boulay%2C\\_Jos%C3%A9phine\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/3_Pi%C3%A8ces_(Boulay%2C_Jos%C3%A9phine))

## **Pamela Decker**

- “On this Day Earth Shall Ring”
  - <https://theleupoldfoundation.org/product/on-this-day-earth-shall-ring/>
  - Note: Five hymn based compositions for Advent and Christmas .....very accessible and playable.
- “Nightsong and Ostinato Dances”
  - <https://theleupoldfoundation.org/product/nightsong-and-ostinato-dances-decker/>
  - Note: Multi movement work incorporating dance rhythms ... challenging.
- “Faneuil Hall”
  - <https://theleupoldfoundation.org/product/faneuil-hall-pamela-decker/>
  - Note: Commissioned by the Boston AGO National Convention in 2014; multi movement work celebrating Boston landmarks and the history of the US as it began in the “Cradle of Liberty” which is Boston! Highly recommended and one of her best! - Eileen Hunt, AGO national president and founding member of the AGO Task Force for Gender Equity

## **Jeanne Demessieux**

- Collection available on IMSLP
  - [https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Demessieux,\\_Jeanne](https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Demessieux,_Jeanne)

## **Emma Lou Diemer**

- “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”
  - <https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/title/i-have-decided-to-follow-jesus-sheet-music/22121981>
  - Note: This is a fabulous piece and such fun to play! Diemer’s notes say “It has overtones of the ‘blues’...along with a suggestion of Latin rhythm, and should be played with proper zeal.” - Nancy Cooper

## **Rachel Laurin**

- “Rondo” (from 12 short pieces, Op. 43)
  - All volumes of 12 short pieces are published by Wayne Leupold: <https://theleupoldfoundation.org/>
  - Note: All of her volumes of 12 short pieces (there are six volumes so far) include some manuals-only pieces, and none are more than 4-5 pages. - Nancy Cooper

## **June Nixon**

- Great collection of pieces!
  - [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VVBtmPNIPVcGyKUIhyrzE73\\_ZXKlclZzdskNuSWHAHk/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VVBtmPNIPVcGyKUIhyrzE73_ZXKlclZzdskNuSWHAHk/edit)

### **Brenda Portman**

- “Meditation on ‘Finlandia’” from *Peace Like a River*
  - <https://lorenz.com/shop/keyboard/organ-solo/peace-like-a-river-3>,
- “Monument” from *Horizons*
  - <https://lorenz.com/shop/keyboard/organ-solo/horizons-2>

### **Florence Price**

- Everything!
  - Note: *Take a look at the ClarNan Editions* - Lyn Loewi
    - <https://www.classicalvocalrep.com/categories/ClarNan-Editions-6769.html?page=2>
  - Note: *Especially love the “Suite #1”* - Nancy Cooper
    - <https://www.classicalvocalrep.com/products/Music-of-Florence-Beatrice-Price-Vol-1-Suite-No-1-for-Organ-384428.html>
  - Note: “Adoration” is one of my favorite and most versatile pieces!  
-Michelle Kardos
    - [https://imslp.org/wiki/Adoration\\_\(Price%2C\\_Florence\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Adoration_(Price%2C_Florence))

### **Sister Maria Clara del Santisimo Sacramento**

- “Psalm Tones for Matins of Sister Maria Clara del Santisimo Sacramento”
  - <https://theleupoldfoundation.org/product/cuaderno-de-tonos-de-maitines-de-sor-mara-clara-del-santsimo-sacramento-johnson/>

### **Margaret Sandresky**

- Any volume!
  - <https://theleupoldfoundation.org/?s=margaret+sandresky>

### **Elizabeth Stirling**

- “Movement in Ab Major”
  - <https://www.schott-music.com/en/person/elizabeth-stirling>

*Final note: There is a lot here from the Wayne Leupold Foundation, which publishes a lot of repertoire by women, but unfortunately, has nothing available digitally. We still included it because of the wealth of music represented there.*

# RESOURCES FOR WOMAN COMPOSER SUNDAY

[2023 WOMAN COMPOSER SUNDAY RECOMMENDED REPERTOIRE LIST](#)

[A GREAT HOST OF COMPOSERS](#)

[AMPLIFY FEMALE COMPOSERS](#)

[BOULANGER INITIATIVE](#)

[DIVERSIFY YOUR REPERTOIRE](#)

[MARGARET ZACH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN COMPOSERS' LIBRARY](#)

[MUSIC, SHE WROTE](#)

[SACRED SONG SISTERS](#)

[SPOTIFY PLAYLIST- WOMEN COMPOSERS FOR THE ORGAN](#)

[SWO DIRECTORY OF WOMEN COMPOSERS OF ORGAN AND LITURGICAL MUSIC CATALOGUE](#)

[WOMEN COMPOSERS ORGAN/LITURGICAL WORKS REPERTOIRE LENT-CORPUS CHRISTI](#)

[WOMEN'S SACRED MUSIC PROJECT](#)

[2022 WOMEN COMPOSER SUNDAY RECOMMENDED REPERTOIRE LIST](#)