



AGO Task Force for Gender Equity

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September Newsletter

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Greetings, all, and welcome to the first newsletter of the AGO Task Force for Gender Equity! In this first issue, and those will follow monthly, we will include articles of interest to organists specifically, as well as articles that address broader issues of gender equity. If you would like to be on a mailing list to receive newsletters straight to your inbox, please click [HERE \(and JW can create a link to him, or Elizabeth, or whoever\)](#). You are also welcome to forward links to any online materials you discover that you think might be of interest to the supporters of the Task Force.

Again, welcome and happy reading!

Nancy Cooper
Director, AGO Task Force for Gender Equity



Members of the AGO Task Force for Gender Equity and Society of Women Organists at the AGO National Convention 2022, from left to right: Lindsey Johnson (Keene, Texas), Pamela Ruiten-Feenstra (Michigan), Morwenna Campbell-Smith (Kent, UK), Michelle Kardos (Los Angeles), Mary Newton (Twin Cities), Nancy Cooper (Montana), Janette Fishell (Indiana), Anne Marsden Thomas (London, UK), Leslie Wolf Robb (San Diego), Rachel Spry Lammi (Dayton, Ohio)

Post-Convention Updates

Our first face-to-face meeting! Members of the TF joined with supporters from the US and Great Britain (members of the Society for Women Organists) for a wonderful time of brainstorming and strategizing. Lots more to come - stay tuned!



Members of the AGO Task Force for Gender Equity and SWO at the AGO National Convention 2022, from left to right:

Lindsey Johnson, Rachel Spry Lammi, Nancy Cooper, Janette Fishell,
Mary Newton, Leslie Wolf Robb, Morwenna Campbell-Smith,
Anne Marsden Thomas, Pamela Ruiten-Feenstra, Michelle Kardos

The San Francisco 2024 convention committee announced in Seattle that for the first time in the history of the event, the St. Cecilia concert, endowed by Marianne Webb, will be played by a woman - Janette Fishell. This is HUGE and everyone is thrilled. (Hopefully 20+ more years won't go by before the second woman is invited to play!)

Boulangier Initiative

Boulangier Initiative advocates for women and all gender marginalized composers and co-founder Joy-Leilani Garbutt will be writing an article for TAO in 2023!

BOULANGER INITIATIVE



BOULANGER INITIATIVE FY22 REVIEW

WOCO FEST 2022: AMAZE

At this year's WoCo Fest, we presented a total of **43** artists and **8** composers, with **46** works by women composers performed.



ELIZABETH HENRIKSEN MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Through the Elizabeth Henriksen Mentorship Program, Boulangier Initiative was able to serve three early-stage professional composers and twelve young student composers by providing guidance, support, opportunity, and community. All of these composers are gender marginalized, and participated in this program at no cost to them. Early-stage professional composers received one-on-one mentoring, professional development workshops, and masterclasses with our world-renowned women composer mentors.



Redefining the Canon (RtC) is an unprecedented initiative which aims to update the most widely-used orchestral audition excerpts to include excerpts by historically underrepresented composers. Throughout RtC's soft launch, we have developed partnerships with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, National Philharmonic, African Diaspora Music Project, and League of American Orchestras.

11

**COUNTRIES
AROUND THE
WORLD**



Our recently introduced Women Composers Alphabet Posters have made their way to classrooms and households in 11 countries across the world and 39 states in the US.

The companion booklet for these posters is also hot off the press, allowing for students and women composer fans to learn more about the lives and accomplishments of the composers on our posters.

Our composition workshops and recordings of works composed by women gained new viewers across the globe throughout YouTube and Facebook.

YOUTUBE
18,910
VIEWS

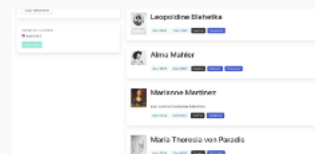
SUBSCRIBE

These educational materials and recordings are freely and publicly accessible for aspiring composers and music lovers. This is one of the many ways we promote music composed by women through performance and education.

WOMEN AND GENDER MARGINALIZED COMPOSERS REPERTOIRE DATABASE

Our database has grown significantly throughout the past six months, with **630** new works being added and **1,465** total composers. We are currently developing a searchable prototype, and hope to have a public version released by the end of 2022.

8,234
**TOTAL PIECES
OF REPERTOIRE**



Composer of the Month

Margaret Bonds

Margaret Allison Bonds (March 3, 1913 – April 26, 1972) was an American composer, pianist, arranger, and teacher. Bonds was the first African American soloist to appear with the Chicago Symphony and played an important role in the development of twentieth century classical and musical theater. She was the recipient of the Rosenwald Fellowship and a Rodman Wanamaker award for composition. One of the first Black composers and performers to gain recognition in the United States, she is best remembered today for her popular arrangements of African-American spirituals, musical adaptations of Shakespeare, and frequent collaborations with Langston Hughes.

Learn more about her by clicking on one of the links below!




[MARGARET BONDS: COMPOSER AND ACTIVIST | GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY](#)

[MARGARET BONDS | HILDEGARD PUBLISHING COMPANY](#)



Check It Out

Washington National Cathedral's newest organ scholar is a young woman!


 **Washington National Cathedral** ✓
July 7 at 12:41 PM · 🌐

We're thrilled to welcome Rebecca Ehren as the Cathedral's newest Organ Scholar!

Rebecca earned her bachelor degree at Indiana University and went on to complete her masters in organ performance at Yale University.

"I'm thrilled and honored to join the cathedral's staff and work with such a committed and brilliant team of musicians," she told us. "I'm excited to collaborate and share music from this magnificent place with both the local community and the wider public."

Look for Rebecca on Sunday mornings, at Choral Evensong and at special holidays as she masters the 10,647 pipes of the Cathedral's Great Organ. Welcome, Rebecca!



Look what happened this summer in San Diego!

[SAN DIEGO INTERNATIONAL SUMMER ORGAN FESTIVAL](#)

One of our members thought this was an outstanding ad - here it is in case you missed it!

[BUICK SEE HER GREATNESS CAMPAIGN](#)

Past performances on YouTube

Task Force member Lyn Loewi did a fabulous job with her AGO and Task-Force sponsored video: *Unusual Voices: The Undiscovered Genius of Women Composers*. If you missed it the first time, here it is again. Also, Eileen led a discussion afterwards that featured TF member Michelle Kardos, as well as at least one representative from SWO. 784 views so far!

UNUSUAL VOICES: THE UNDISCOVERED GENIUS OF WOMEN COMPOSERS

Nancy Cooper gave a lecture-recital on organ music by women on International Women's Day, last spring; you're welcome to give it a watch/listen as well; it includes unpublished works by Wilhelmine von Bayreuth and Yvonne Deportes, as well as music by Elizabeth Stirling, Cecile Chaminade, Florence Price and Cecilia McDowall:

DR. NANCY COOPER'S RECITAL



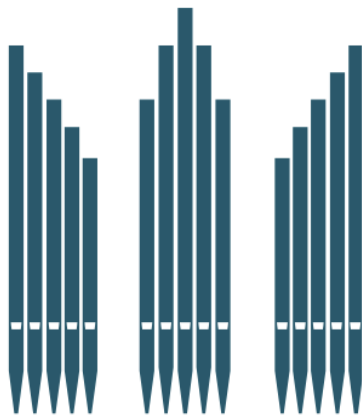
Get Involved!

Have you completed any research recently that you are wanting to share with the public? Have you reworked your doctoral dissertation on women organ composers, cut it in half and eliminated all words of more than 4 syllables, and are ready to submit it somewhere? Consider publishing in TAO. Nick Bergin is the new, enthusiastic editor, and is very (I mean, VERY) supportive of the TF's work in the past year. We are continuing it for the upcoming year as well, but no one has said that Women Can Only Have One Article Per Month, right? Talk with Nancy, or with Lyn Loewi, or write Nick directly (nbergin@agohq.org). **He is eager to hear from you!**

Plan Ahead!

Gail Archer and her organization, MusForum, are sponsoring a conference in February 2023; read more about it here, and start planning now! It will be taking place at Arizona State; our friend (and American SWO member) Lindsey Johnson, is a student there, and our colleague and TF supporter Kimberly Marshall is the Professor of Organ there.

WOMEN IN THE WEST: ARIZONA MUSFORUM CONFERENCE



WOMAN COMPOSER SUNDAY

Mark your calendar! The next Woman Composer Sunday will be March 5, 2023. This is the spotify playlist that SWO compiled in advance of the 2022 WCS. Listen and enjoy!

WOMEN COMPOSERS FOR THE ORGAN

If you haven't heard about SWO (Society of Women Organists), here is an introductory video. Membership is free and the organization is dedicated to celebrating women organists in all areas of music-making. Here is their website:

<https://www.societyofwomenorganists.co.uk/>

INTRODUCING THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN ORGANISTS

