



AGO Task Force for Gender Equity

April Newsletter

Recap:

Woman Composer Sunday 2024

Thank you to all those who participated in Woman Composer Sunday! We have received some wonderful messages about ways that women composers were incorporated into services and recitals. As a reminder, we don't have to stop with this Sunday either, by finding ways throughout the year to incorporate more women composers into the repertoire. Also, please send us any concerts or programs you want to share!



[AGO TASK FORCE FOR GENDER EQUITY RESOURCES](#)

[RSCM WOMAN COMPOSER PUBLICATIONS](#)

[SWO WOMAN COMPOSER SUNDAY REPERTOIRE](#)

Rediscovering the Rigor of Composers



This is an article about rediscovering two African American composers. Julia Perry and Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson were both important 20th century composers whose work has been neglected. The album, *American Counterpoints*, features their music. The timing of the album's release coincides with the 100th anniversary of Perry's birth.

[REDISCOVERING THE RIGOR](#)

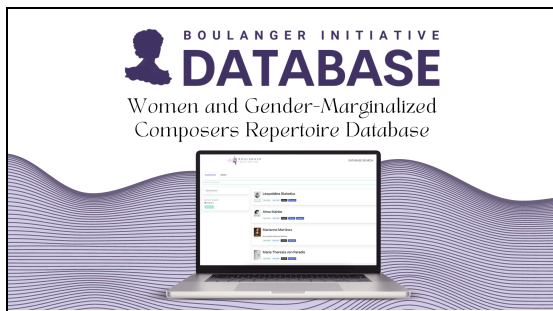
“Show Me the Way”

This is an article about a new album by baritone Will Liverman. It discusses his musical upbringing and how his mother inspired him to pursue classical singing. The album, titled "Show Me The Way," features songs by female composers and celebrates women in music. Liverman also collaborated with other singers including Renée Fleming and J'Nai Bridges.



["SHOW ME THE WAY" ALBUM](#)

Boulanger Initiative Database

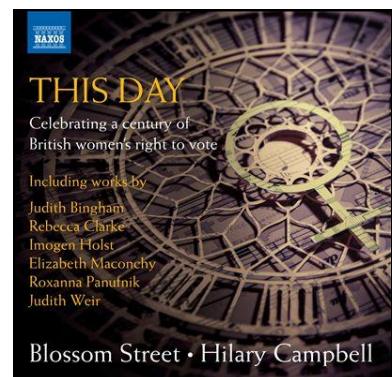


The Women and Gender Marginalized Composers Repertoire Database (BID) is now publicly available, following years of researching archives, compiling data, and beta testing. The database offers freely available information on over 8,000 works by 1,200 BIPOC, women, and marginalized composers in classical music.

[BOULANGER INITIATIVE DATABASE](#)

Caught Our Ear

“This Day: Celebrating a Century of British Women's Right to Vote” is an album with music that dates as far back as 1937 from the pen of Rebecca Clarke and features the fine British choir Blossom Street under its director Hilary Campbell, a cappella or with accompaniment, and here all-female. Ten of the 14 pieces here are receiving their world premieres, and the program collectively suggests a continuity of female creativity. Take a listen!



[ALBUM: THIS DAY ON SPOTIFY](#)

Composer of the Month

Chelsie Chen

Chelsea Chen's dynamic playing has taken her to the far corners of the world. Her solo concerts offer a unique mix of traditional organ repertoire along with piano/orchestral transcriptions and contemporary music. The Los Angeles Times has praised her "rare musicality" and "lovely lyrical grandeur," and a compositional style that is "charming" and "irresistible."



Ms. Chen originally hails from San Diego, where her formative music teachers were organists Leslie Robb (St. Paul's Lutheran, San Diego) and Monte Maxwell (US Naval Academy, Annapolis) and pianists Baruch Arnon (New York City), Jane Bastien and Lori Bastien Vickers (San Diego). She studied under Paul Jacobs and John Weaver at The Juilliard School in New York, where she received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees. She also won the John Erskine Prize for academic and artistic achievement, awarded to one graduate per year. After college, she moved to Taiwan under a Fulbright scholarship, whereupon she collected folk songs and wrote organ solo and chamber music. She returned to the U.S. to study with Thomas Murray at Yale University, where she earned an Artist Diploma. In 2009, Wayne Leupold Editions published her composition "Taiwanese Suite" to great acclaim.

Ms. Chen has recorded multiple CDs: *Reveries* (2011) at Bethel University, *Live at Heinz Chapel* at the 2005 Convention of the American Institute of Organbuilders, *Eastern Treasures* (2010) with violinist Lewis Wong, *Live at Coral Ridge* (2014), and *Explorations for Cello and Organ* (2018) with cellist Joseph Lee. Her playing has been aired on CNN.com, "Pipedreams" from American Public Media, Hawaii Public Radio, and Taiwan's Good News Radio. Committed to new music, she has premiered works by composers throughout the world including Ola Gjeilo (Norway/USA), Yui Kitamura (Japan/USA), Paul Desenne (Venezuela), Roderick Gorby (USA), Vincent Rone (USA), and Viviane Waschbüsch (Germany). Her compositions are available exclusively from Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc. From 2013-2017, Ms. Chen was Artist-in-Residence at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, where she performed and directed the Concert Series. At present, she serves as Artist-in-Residence at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Manhattan.

CHELSIE CHEN

Dame Ethel Smyth

Here is a recent article about Ethel Smyth. It discusses her life and career, including her struggles for recognition. Smyth was a strong-willed musician who defied societal expectations. She composed operas and other works, including a Mass in D. Her works are now being performed more frequently!



[LOOKOUTS ALOFT! A COMPOSER PUTS OUT TO SEA](#)

Mark Your Calendars!

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! The National Convention of the American Guild of Organists is held biennially in even-numbered years and reflects the diverse aspects of the Guild and its official work across the country. Held as a function of the national organization in partnership with a selected chapter, it represents a coalition between the national leadership and the host chapter's leadership. This joint venture combines the talents and creative strengths of each and represents the larger vision of the whole membership and its needs. This year's upcoming convention will be in San Francisco from June 30-July 4, 2024. When you register, be sure to check for the workshop being given by the Task Force for Gender Equity and the Society for Women Organists. We hope to see you there!

[AGO 2024 SAN FRANCISCO](#)



AGO Task Force for Gender Equity

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