

**Cécile Chaminade** (1857-1944) was a French composer and pianist. In 1913, she was awarded the Légion d'Honneur, a first for a female composer. Her music has been described as tuneful, highly accessible and mildly chromatic, and it may be regarded as bearing the typical characteristics of late-Romantic French music.

**Amy Beach** (1867-1944) was an American composer and pianist. She was the first successful American female composer of large-scale art music. Her "Gaelic" Symphony, premiered by the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 1896, was the first symphony composed and published by an American woman. She was one of the first American composers to succeed without the benefit of European training, and one of the most respected and acclaimed American composers of her era. <https://www.amybeach.org>

**Marion Bauer** (1882-1955) was an American composer, teacher, writer, and music critic. She played an active role in shaping American musical identity in the early half of the twentieth century. Throughout her life, Bauer promoted not only her own work but new music in general. Bauer helped found the American Music Guild, the American Music Center, and the American Composer's Alliance, serving as a board member of the latter. Bauer additionally held leadership roles in both the League of Composers and the Society for the Publication of American Music as a board member and secretary, respectively. Very often, she was the only woman in a leadership position in these organizations. <https://jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/bauer-marion-eugenie>

**Marcelle de Manziarly** (1899-1989) was born in the Ukraine, studied in Paris with Nadia Boulanger

**Florence Price** (1887-1953) was one of the pioneer black symphonists, along with William Grant Still and George Walker; her *Symphony in E Minor* was premiered in 1932 by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. <https://florenceprice.com/>

**Tania Justin Leon** was born in 1943 in Havana, Cuba. She co-founded the Dance Theater of Harlem with Arthur Mitchell in 1969. <https://www.grammy.com/grammys/news/songwriter-composer-sessions-tania-leon-video-interview-songwriters-composers-wing-recording-academy>

**Clara Gottschalk Peterson** (1837-1910) was the sister of the famous pianist/composer Louis Moreau Gottschalk. She compiled her brother's diary, letters and articles after his death in 1870 and published a collection called *Notes of a Pianist*.

**Undine Smith Moore** (1904-1989)

*Before I'd Be a Slave* was commissioned by the Modern Dance Group at Virginia State College. Moore supplied this program: "The frustration and chaos of slaves who wish to be free. In the depths—A slow and ponderous struggle, attempts to escape—Tug of war—a measure of freedom won—upward movements—Continued aspiration—Determination—Affirmation." <https://www.classicfm.com/discover-music/undine-smith-moore-dean-black-women-composers/>

**Dorothy Rudd Moore** (b. 1940)

In 1968 she was one of the founders of the Society of Black Composers. Her 1985 opera *Frederick Douglass* and performed at the City College of New York. *Little Whimsy* was composer in response to comments that her music was too serious.

<https://composers.com/dorothy-rudd-moore>

**Zenobia Powell Perry** (1908-2004) studied with Darius Milhaud and Nathaniel Dett.  
[https://www.hildegard.com/composer\\_detail.php?id=146](https://www.hildegard.com/composer_detail.php?id=146)

**Valerie Capers** (b. 1953) is the recipient of numerous awards, including Essence Magazine's Women of Essence, the Heritage Award, and the National Endowment for the Arts. As a performer she appeared with Dizzy Gillespie, Ray Brown, and Wynton Marsalis, and appeared on Marian McPartland's NPR show *Piano Jazz*. <https://valcapmusic.com/>

**Cheryl Frances-Hoad** (b. 1980) Admired for her originality, fluency and professionalism, Cheryl Frances-Hoad has been composing to commission since she was fifteen. Her output - widely premiered, broadcast and commercially recorded, reaching audiences from the Proms to outreach workshops - addresses all genres from opera, ballet and concerto to song, chamber and solo music. <https://www.cherylfranceshoad.co.uk/>

**Bo Huang** (b. 2001)

**Alexina Louie** (b. 1949) is a Canadian composer who has been commissioned to write works for most of Canada's leading performers, ensembles, and orchestras. Her numerous solo piano works have been championed by Jon Kimura Parker, Angela Hewitt and Pierre-Laurent Aimard.  
<https://www.alexinalouie.ca/>

**Judith Lang Zaimont** (b. 1945) is internationally recognized for her music's distinctive style, characterized by expressive strength and dynamism. A grantee of both National Endowments, winner of the 2015 The American Prize in Chamber Music Composition and a 2003 Aaron Copland Award winner, she has enjoyed a distinguished career as composer of over 100 works with performances by the Philadelphia Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony, Camerata Bern, Berlin and Czech Radio symphonies, and the Kremlin Chamber Orchestra.  
<https://www.judithzaimont.com/>

**Madeline Dring** (1884-1981) was an English composer and actress. Dring also studied drama and mime and sustained a lifelong love of the theatre; she both wrote and composed for it (mostly incidental music and songs) and sang, played the piano and acted on the stage, combining modesty with a lively sense of wit and mimicry.  
<https://britishmusiccollection.org.uk/composer/madeleine-dring>

Further information on piano music by Black Women Composers can be found at  
<https://www.colorado.edu/project/hidden-voices/variations-lift-every-voice-and-sing-lettie-b-alston>