Underrepresented Composers Research Guide

PURPOSE

Part of the repertoire requirements for NCF states that one piece must be written by an underrepresented composer. Many composers have been overlooked and discriminated against because of society's marginalization of their identities. It is important to realize that we have not yet heard the entire story due to the sidelining of these musical voices.

It is our responsibility as performing musicians to elevate diverse composers, arrangers, and artists, and raise awareness about their contributions to classical music.

This guide offers a starting point for researching diverse repertoire and learning about those who have not been represented historically in classical music, but it is necessary to understand that we each are accountable for our own education of underrepresented composers. We hope these resources are helpful and inspire us all to explore.

RESEARCH

Hildegard Publishing Company

Highlights the music of women composers

Website

You can search by name of composer, instrument, or historical period. Once you find the piece you'd like, you can easily locate the piece in their catalog. Your purchase can be made directly through their website.

They have their own resources section of the website where you can learn more specifically about Black women composers and find their works in one place.

The Composers Equity Project

A Database of ALAANA, Women, and Gender Non-Conforming Composers*
Link
By clicking on a composer listed, you can visit their website and learn more about their pieces. This list offers a starting place to learn about composers but does not offer specific repertoire or any filters for group size/instrumentation.

New Music Equity Action

Link
"We are an assembly of composers, performers, and administrators in the USA whose work creates new music. We gather in order to prioritize in our work the values of anti-oppression, anti-racism, equity, and inclusion."

Wind Quintets by Underrepresented Composers

YouTube Playlist Link
A curated playlist to find and hear wind quintet pieces. This playlist spans a variety of time periods and styles.

Databases of Repertoire by Underrepresented Composers

Website
Provides several different databases and websites for continued research.

Institute for Composer Diversity

Website
Offers specific databases to search by composers, specific works, or choral music. Several different filters are available on the databases for a more targeted search.

Refresh Your Sonic Palette: Contemporary Black Composers You Should Know

Article Link

List of Black contemporary composers with links to their websites and examples of their work.

Latin American Music Center

Website

Indiana University's Latin American Music Center with virtual access to their archives and special collections.

Cuarteto Latinoamericano Virtual Library

Website

Virtual library and database for Latin American Music.

Paul Desenne

Website

Venezuelan, French and American cellist & composer whose catalogue of works can be found at his website, including many pieces for chamber groups.

Lafi Publishers

Website

Virtual catalogue to shop the featured artists' works!

Just a Theory Press

Website

Solo and chamber works by underrepresented composers, a place to buy these pieces, and learn more about the composers featured!

Lili Flute

Website

Latin American music publisher with music for a variety of chamber ensembles.

Black Creators: A List of Resources

Website
Manhattan School of Music's list of resources for further research ranging from music theory to early music to contemporary music.

QUESTIONS

We also encourage original compositions by underrepresented composers in your ensemble. Let us know what you find and what you create!

If you have questions about finding repertoire, getting access to the score and parts, or any other questions, please feel free to contact us:

Jaren Atherholt
jaren@lyricabaroque.com

Sophia Dobbie
sophia@lyricabaroque.com