



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 are each accountable for our own education of underrepresented composers.

We hope these resources are helpful and inspire us all to explore.

DATABASES



Composers Equity Project

[Website](#)

This list created by Chamber Music America offers a starting place to learn about composers, but does not offer specific repertoire or filters for group size or instrumentation.

Databases of Repertoire by Underrepresented Composers

[Website](#)

This website created by the League of American Orchestras is a collection of databases, offering additional links and lists for further exploration and research.

Institute for Composer Diversity

[Website](#)

The Institute for Composer Diversity works to encourage the discovery, study, and performance of music written by composers from historically excluded groups.



Cuarteto Latinoamericano

[Website](#)

Created by Cuarteto Latinoamericano with support from the National Fund for Culture and Arts of Mexico, in order to make available to the public a substantial amount of Latin American works for string quartet.

Ithaca College

[Website](#)

Instrument specific lists for diversifying your repertoire.

Music for Viola by Underrepresented Composers

[Website](#)

A group of violists joined together in order to address significant disparities of representation in Western classical music by creating this database as a starting point for scholars, performers, composers, and teachers to discover solo and chamber repertoire for viola by underrepresented composers.



PAS Diversity Alliance

[Website](#)

Repertoire lists include solos, chamber music, and method books.

PUBLISHERS

Lafi Publishers

[Website](#)

Created to expand the exposure of Latin American contemporary living composers to the world.

Lili Flute

[Website](#)

A Latin American music publisher with music for a variety of chamber ensembles established by Colombian composer and flutist Carmen Marulanda.

Hildegard Publishing

[Website](#)

Seeking out and publishing compositions by women composers which display the highest level of excellence and musical merit.

JDW Sheet Music

[Website](#)

Founded and owned by oboist Jessica Wilkins.

Just a Theory Press

[Website](#)

At least 5% of each sale on their website goes to a charity of the composer's choice, and over half of each sale goes directly to support the composer.

TrumpetSmith Publishing

[Website](#)

Aaron Smith is a freelance trumpet player based in Los Angeles, CA. He also writes, arranges, and publishes music through TrumpetSmith Publishing.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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.”



8 Native American Composers to Add to Your Playlist

[Article Link](#)

A list of Native American composers published in 2021 by Symon Braun Freck.

Latin America Music Center

[Website](#)

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



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.

Asian Composers Reflect on Careers in Western Classical Music

[Article Link](#)

A New York Times article highlighting five artists and their stories of struggles and triumphs.

Wind Quintets by Underrepresented Composers

[Playlist Link](#)

A curated playlist to find and hear wind quintet pieces.



Silkroad

[Website](#)

Yo-Yo Ma conceived Silkroad in 1998 as a reminder that even as rapid globalization resulted in division, it brought extraordinary possibilities for working together.

Native American Composer Apprentice Project

[Website](#)

In 2001, the Grand Canyon Music Festival initiated its Native American Composers Apprentice Project (NACAP) to extend its outreach to training talented Native American students in the art of composition.

QUESTIONS

We also encourage original compositions. 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:

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