



Smithsonian Associates

Women Who Shaped the Musical World: Performers, Patrons, Composers, Muses ... and more

Dr. Rachel Franklin

Monday, January 12 - February 9, 2026 - 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. ET

JAN 26th: Entrepreneurs, Gurus, Muses, Nurturers

First we finish our initial exploration of women composers by exploring the works of Florence Price and Margaret Bonds. Then, on to the internationally renowned piano maker Nannette Streicher who, when she wasn't busy building superb instruments for her friend Beethoven, helped him run his hopelessly disorganized household while barely keeping up with her own. George Sand juggled her successful writing career with supporting the endlessly complex needs of her lover Chopin and raising her two children. Mathilde Wesendonck and Alma Mahler all defied social mores and scandalized their contemporaries with their affairs and marriages to powerful older composers, becoming their muses and managers. The brilliant Boulanger sisters, composer Lili and teacher Nadia, influenced the path of modern composition, with composers from across the Western world beating a path to Nadia's door for her uniquely insightful guidance.

Works explored, media used

Florence Price, 1887-1953

Symphony no. 3 in C minor, 1938

- The Philadelphia Orchestra, Yannick Nézet-Séguin
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkpzYvggwP0&list=RDxkpzYvggwP0&start_radio=1

My Soul's Been Anchored the Lord, arr. 1937

- Marion Anderson, Franz Rupp
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehZA-HyUPuk&list=RDehZA-HyUPuk&start_radio=1

Margaret Bonds, 1913-1972

Troubled Water, 1967

- Kyle P. Walker
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPeLOYc3pNA>

Montgomery Variations, 1964

- Minnesota Orchestra, Scott Yoo
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ereaXUDie-A>

Nannette (Anna-Maria) Streicher, 1769-1833

2 Marches for Piano: I. March in D Major, performed on the Nannette Streicher fortepiano from 1816

- Ines Schüttengruber
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=radTAZUXrn4&list=RDradTAZUXrn4&start_radio=1

Jan Václav Hugo Voříšek, 1791-1826

Fantasia in C, Op. 12: II. Allegro con brio, 1817, performed on the Nannette Streicher fortepiano

- Ines Schüttengruber
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KtHLV2y8toQ&list=RDKtHLV2y8toQ&start_radio=1

L. V. Beethoven, 1770-1827

Bagatelle, Op. 33, No. 1, 1802, performed on the Nannette Streicher fortepiano from 1816

- Ekaterina Polyakova
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ezd3I0HCiV4>

Concerts at Hatchlands Park on George IV's Nannette Streicher piano

Beethoven: 7 Variations on 'Bei Männern, welche Liebe fühlen', 1801

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CrtEGI5XGZU&list=RDCrtEGI5XGZU&start_radio=1

George IV's Streicher piano

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-85wfGNr8fA&list=RD-85wfGNr8fA&start_radio=1

Richard Wagner, 1813-1883

Wesendonck Lieder, WWV 91, "Im Treibhaus", 1858

- Régine Crespin, Orchestre National de la Radiodiffusion Française
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fh4aIsk0JtE>

“Träume” 1858

- Birgit Nilsson, Leo Traubmann
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPhQGXi5Xl0>

Tristan und Isolde, WWV 90 / Act 3 – Prelude, 1859

- Leonard Bernstein, Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1-CYMrmTAo>

Tom Lehrer, “Alma”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L35IiVHZBTk>

Alma Mahler, 1879-1964

Five Songs for Voice and Piano, “Die stille Stadt”, 1901

- Angelika Kirchschrager, Helmut Deutsch
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b994Y75mS8o>

Lili Boulanger, 1893-1918

D'un matin de printemps, 1918

- Yehudi Menuhin & Clifford Curzon
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbYIKmOIY_0

Faust et Hélène, 1913

- Lynn Dawson, soprano, Ann Murray, mezzo-soprano, Bonaventura Bottone, tenor, Jason Howard, baritone, BBC Philharmonic, Yan Pascal Tortelier.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3BQgfSfMG4E>

Pie Jesu, 1918

- Alain Fauqueur – boy soprano, Lamoureux Concert Association Orchestra, Igor Markevitch
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTp5sFaG1FM>

Nadia Boulanger, 1887-1979:

Aaron Copland on Nadia Boulanger

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzO87_ZCmaA

"Nadia Boulanger: Mademoiselle" by Bruno Monsaingeon, excerpt

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DfVn8Z97BcI>

Fantaisie variée pour piano et orchestra, 1912

- Eric Le Sage, l'Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IfNfY9S3ybw>

Trois Pièces pour violoncelle et piano, 1914

- Bryan Cheng, cello Silvie Cheng, piano
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rghjLzI0jcl>

Fryderyk Chopin, 1810-1849

- Sound reconstruction in George Sand's house, Nohant-Vic, imagined from June 1842
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QRfvRP-eIGk>

Ballade in F minor, Op. 52, 1842

- Krzysztof Moskaliewicz, Concerts at Hatchlands Park: Chopin on his own Pleyel piano
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUgxELRgPLk>

Raoul Koczalski plays Chopin on Chopin's Pleyel from 1847)

- Raoul Koczalski (1884-1948), Live recording from the concert celebrating the 138th anniversary of Chopin's birth, 1948-02-21 (the Pompeian Hall, Belweder Palace, Warsaw) Nocturne in D-flat major, Op. 27 No. 2 , Waltz in E-flat major, Op. 18, Berceuse in D-flat major, Op. 57
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcV3P6zS30Q&list=RDfcV3P6zS30Q&start_radio=1

Mazurka, Op. 50 No. 1, 1842

- Artur Rubinstein
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1752GH8vDc>

A number of you have reached out to me asking about my live concert performances. For my upcoming performance of Beethoven's 4th piano concerto with the Washington Sinfonietta on Feb. 14th, please click on this link: <https://washingtonsinfonietta.org/>