

Sonata in E minor 2nd mov't, by Florence Price (1932)

Ms. Price was a pioneer for both female composers and composers of color. Born in 1887 in Arkansas, she attended New England Conservatory to study music despite racially discriminatory practices at the time. Among her many accomplishments, her Symphony in E Minor was the first composition by an African American woman to be played by a major orchestra. Throughout her life, Ms. Price continued to mentor young artists and compose classical works.



This piece, *Sonata in E Minor*, won First Prize in the 1932 Rodman Wanamaker music contest, winning national recognition. The main refrain is rhythmically and melodically reminiscent of a traditional spiritual.

A Little Whimsy, by Dorothy Rudd Moore (1982)

Ms. Moore's compositions are more contemporary in style. Born in 1940, she studied at Howard University then later studied in France with famed French music teacher and pianist, Nadia Boulanger. In 1968, Moore co-founded the Society of Black Composers in New York. In 1985, her opera Frederick Douglass premiered in NYC.



This piece, *A Little Whimsy*, features contemporary techniques, which often sound dissonant. That which seems random is, in fact, very methodical.

Billie's Song, by Valerie Capers (1976)

Ms. Capers was born in New York in 1935. Tragically, an illness left her legally blind at age 6; a significant challenge for a musician. However, she went on to attend Juilliard, the most famous performing arts college in the country, becoming the school's first blind graduate.



This piece, *Billie's Song*, is taken from her album, "Portraits in Jazz," in which each of the 12 works is dedicated to a famous jazz instrumentalist or vocalist. *Billie's Song* is a loving tribute to jazz singer Billie Holiday. In the spirit of jazz tradition, there will be some improvisation added to Capers's original composition.

Troubled Water, by Margaret Bonds (1967)

Born in 1913 to parents active in the Civil Rights movement, Ms. Bonds was the epitome of the activist-artist. She studied composition with Florence Price then attended Juilliard Conservatory. She later became a teacher in Chicago, NYC, and LA, focusing on music education in inner-city communities.



This piece, *Troubled Water*, incorporates the famous spiritual *Wade in the Water*, which played a significant role during the time of American slavery. The haunting refrain is developed by bold rhythms and harmonies.