



Many Voices: Resources for Diversifying Choral Programming

Compiled by Erik Peregrine

As the Institute for Composer Diversity defines in its suggested best practices, “diversifying repertoire can include music from composers with access barriers, composers with physical/visible disabilities, composers who are neurodivergent, composers of color, composers from the LGBTQIA2S+ community, composers of historically underrepresented genders, and composers who may identify in multiple intersectionalities.”¹

The following collection of resources can aid conductors in diversifying their choral programming efforts. This list is certainly not exhaustive; rather, it is offered as a starting place and a celebration of the many voices contributing to the advancement of equity in our field. If you know of a resource not featured in this column, contact me at artisticdirector@ensemblecompanio.org. I would love to hear about it! Let us support each other in creating rich choral experiences that celebrate the full breadth of our humanity.

Online Resources for Discovering Choral Works and/or Composers

Institute for Composer Diversity

<https://www.composerdiversity.com>

“The Institute for Composer Diversity is committed to the celebration, education, and advocacy of music created by composers from historically underrepresented genders, racial, ethnic, and cultural heritages, and sexual orientations, as well as disabled composers.” ICD offers an extensive searchable database of composers and repertoire that can be filtered by a variety of identity categories. ICD also offers reports on state repertoire lists, resources, and suggested best practices for creating diverse concert programs.

Boulanger Initiative

<https://www.boulangerinitiative.org>

“Designed for everyone – musicians, performers, conductors, students, researchers, educators, artistic administrators, and anyone with a curious mind – this database provides access to thousands of works by

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women and gender-marginalized composers. By sharing knowledge and resources, BI increases access to works by underrepresented composers, empowering all who wish to diversify classical music programming.” BI’s database can be used to search for composers or for repertoire, and the organization also offers a variety of educational resources.

Beyond Elijah Rock: The Non-Idiomatic Choral Music of Black Composers

Author/compiler: Marques L. A. Garrett
www.mlagmusic.com/research/beyond-elijah-rock

“Non-idiomatic, as it relates to Black composers, refers to the original concert music that is not part of the traditional idiomatic canon associated with Black musicians. That canon includes spirituals, gospel, jazz, hip-hop, and rap among others.” This resource features an extensive spreadsheet of repertoire and collection of anthologies, bibliographies, encyclopedias, and organizations.

Choral Music by Women Composers

Author/compiler: Eliza Rubenstein and Magen Solomon
www.ocwomenschorus.org/women-composers/

“This searchable, sortable database lists sample repertoire for all voicings by women composers of all eras, and is intended to be an ever-evolving resource for conductors interested in programming music by women.”

Amplify Female Composers

Author/compiler: Carolyn Craig and Janet Yieh
www.amplifyfemalecomposers.org

“Amplify Female Composers...seeks to encourage the performance of sacred music by women composers and arrangers. Our hope is to expand the rich repertoire of music in liturgical music programs, and to send this excellent music out into the world as a helpful resource for all church musicians and music lovers alike.”

A Great Host of Composers

www.greathostcomposers.org

This resource features sacred music by women, including spreadsheets with repertoire suggestions for the Anglican liturgical year and genre (Mass settings, Evening Canticles, Responses, and Anglican Chant). The database includes recommended titles, links to scores, recordings and composer information, and corresponding Revised Common Lectionary readings. Suggested repertoire lists for liturgical years A, B, and C also are provided.

Choral Music by Trans+ Composers

Author/compiler: Erik Peregrine
www.erikperegrine.com/choral-music-by-trans-composers.html

This resource is a sortable, searchable spreadsheet database of choral works by transgender, nonbinary, Two Spirit, and gender-expansive composers. All composers have consented to be included; composers’ pronouns, gender identity(ies), and descriptive information about their works have been provided and/or approved by the composers themselves. Repertoire entries span a broad variety of voicings, genre, and subject matter.

Jewish Choral Music

Author/compiler: Joshua Jacobson
www.jewishchoralmusic.com

“Jewish Choral Music is a resource center for anyone interested in discovering a repertoire that is rich, but relatively unknown.” JCM’s searchable database includes repertoire for all voicings and difficulty levels spanning a wide breadth of style, geographic origin, and era. JCM also offers a wealth of composer biographies, resources on programming Jewish music, singing in Hebrew, lists of suggested repertoire, a course on the history of Jewish choral music, and other valuable materials.

Eastern Light:

Northeast Asian ChoralResources

Author/compiler: Minji Kim and Su Xin
<https://neachoralresources.wordpress.com>

Eastern Light’s goals “are to share thoughtfully-selected composers and choral music from Northeast Asia and to share resources for choir educators to use for teaching music in respective languages.” The website offers a curated spectrum of choral repertoire from Korean, Japanese, and Chinese composers, which can be sorted by voicing, instrumentation, and language, in addition to biographical information and language guides for Korean and Mandarin.

Voce in tempore

<https://voceintempore.org/>

Voce in tempore is a Mexican choral ensemble and mu-

sic association whose website hosts resources and links for composers, conductors, ensembles, and festivals active in Mexico. Voce’s website also features a page of Mexican choral music editions for 3, 4, 5, and 6 voices.

“Indigenous Composers and Choral Music”

Author/compiler: Tammy-Jo Mortensen and Sherryl Sewepagaham

<https://gatheringworship.ca/blogs/indigenous-composers-and-choral-music>

ICCM is an article on the United Church of Canada’s resource blog including introductory suggestions for engaging respectfully with Indigenous music and cultures from Sherryl Sewepagaham’s Cree and Dene perspective. ICCM includes suggested resources for finding Indigenous composers and song-creators, as well as a one-page downloadable list of suggested choral works. (More works by Indigenous & First Nations



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smf.sewanee.edu/pre-college-experience/

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composers are now available through Cypress Choral and Silent Dawn Publishing, among others.)

Music by Black Composers: 34 Sacred Choral Anthems (two and three part)

<https://www.ashleydanyew.com/posts/music-by-black-composers-2-part>

Music by Black Composers: 108 Sacred Choral Anthems (SATB)

<https://www.ashleydanyew.com/posts/music-by-black-composers-satb>

This is a two-part blog series by Ashley Danyew with lists of sacred choral anthems by Black composers organized by voicing.

Donne: Women in Music's "The Big List"

<https://donne-uk.org>

"The BIG LIST of Women Composers is an ever-expanding list featuring more than 5,000 women composers (and counting). From pre-medieval composers to twenty-first-century singer-songwriters, pick a country, a century, a music genre: you will find a woman there!"

Music by Black Composers

<https://www.musicbyblackcomposers.org>

Music by Black Composers' mission is "to inspire Black students...by showing them that they are an integral part of classical music's past as well as its future, to make the music of Black composers available to all people regardless of background or ethnicity, and to help bring greater diversity to the ranks of performers, composers, and audiences, and help change the face of classical music and its canon." MBC's resource hub includes directories of living and historic Black composers, bibliographies, discographies, and educational tools.

ChoralWiki – Choral Public Domain Library (CPDL)

www.cpdl.org

CPDL's composer catalogue enables users to search for composer by nationality/ethnicity in addition to musical era and offers a category for women composers.

ChoralWiki – Música Colonial Archive

https://www.cpdl.org/wiki/index.php/M%C3%basica_Colonial_Archive

The Música Colonial Archive is an ongoing project to digitize Colonial-era (16th–18th century) choral repertoire from the Cathedral of Guatemala. Hundreds of public domain works by a variety of Latin American choral composers are currently available.

Books, Anthologies, and Printed Repertoire Resources

The Oxford Book of Choral Music by Black Composers

Edited by Marques L. A. Garrett
Oxford University Press

"The Oxford Book of Choral Music by Black Composers is a landmark collection of non-idiomatic compositions from the sixteenth century to the present day, providing a comprehensive introduction to an area of choral music that has been historically under-represented. This unique anthology seeks both to improve representation in the historical canon and to showcase the music of some of the best names in choral music today."

Choral Diversity: A Mosaic of Historical Composers and Compositions

Author/compiler: Dennis Shrock
GIA Publications

"Written by noted scholar and conductor Dennis

Shrock, Choral Diversity is a presentation of composers throughout history who represent the broad and diverse canon of choral music. Included are twenty women composers and ten composers of color, many of whom have been previously underrepresented in studies and in performances.”

Choral Repertoire by Women Composers

Edited by Hilary Apfelstadt and Alan Davis
GIA Publications

“Choral Repertoire by Women Composers [highlights] the lives and music of more than 200 women choral composers spanning different time periods and geographic locations. Their choral works—expressive, compelling, and innovative—represent a diversity of styles and are suitable for choirs of varied ages and experience. Nearly 2,000 unique works are listed in this edition.”

Anthology of Sacred Music by Women Composers

Vol. 1: SATB Anthems

Vol. 2: Upper Voices Anthems

Vol. 3: Mixed Voices Anthems, Advent to Candlemas
Multitude of Voyces

(<https://www.multitudeofvoyces.co.uk>)

“Women have always composed sacred music, but their output has often been omitted from established anthologies. In consequence, women are hugely underrepresented in this genre. Our Anthology series addresses this injustice in a bold way, presenting 63 women composers spanning 800 years of music, across three printed volumes, with many historical works published for the first time, and several works composed specially for our volumes by both emerging and established composers.” Digital score licenses are also available.



Competition for Young Composers

Congratulations to our 2025 winner
Kate Crellin

Hear the world premiere of Crellin's winning composition "Common Ground" on May 24th at Angel City Chorale's upcoming concert, *The Red Thread*

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www.angelcitychorale.org/composer-competition

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Choral Music Composed by Women

Carus-Verlag/Arkiv Frau und Musik

“A real novelty in the German-speaking world, Choral Music Composed by Women features a total of 47 works for mixed choir. [...] This choral collection spotlights female composers from Europe, North and South America and Israel, ranging from the Renaissance period to young composers of the present day.” Available in print and digital editions.

Carmina mundi

Carus-Verlag/

International Federation for Choral Music

“In conjunction with the IFCM (International Federation for Choral Music) Carus is publishing the series

“Carmina mundi,” which consists of traditional works from various regions of the world. Each region is represented by one volume for mixed-voice choir and one for equal voices. The editors are experts in the music in their respective fields and are thoroughly familiar with its characteristic features.” Regions currently available include Latin America (two volumes, ed. María Guinand), Southeast Asia (ed. André de Quadros), and Israel (two volumes, ed. Maya Shavit).

Cantemos a coro: An Anthology of Choral Music from Latin America

Author: Diana Sáez, DMA dissertation

Available for open access on ProQuest “This project presents an anthology of Latin American choral music, with examples from periods from the colonial time to the present. It includes notes about each composer’s life and the historical context in which the works were created, and explains some of the most striking features of the music.

Songs of Africa: 22 Pieces for Mixed Voices

Author/compiler: Fred Onovwerosuoke

Oxford University Press

“Fred Onovwerosuoke and the St. Louis African Chorus carefully selected the favourite, most requested songs from their workshops, while trying to represent a wide spectrum of Africa’s regions and cultural practices, songs of spirituality, religion, community, work, and play from Nigeria, Ghana, Congo, Benin, South Africa, Namibia, the Gambia, and others. The result is Songs of Africa, a user-friendly resource that will satisfy the hunger for new, diverse choral repertoire. As a performance aid, this exciting collection also includes a pronunciation guide, notes on performance practice and cultural context, and, where accompaniment is needed or suggested, some accessible percussion charts.”

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— Monica Bertrand, 2025 Apprentice

Specialized Publishers

African Composers Edition

<https://african-composers-edition.co.za>

“ACE’s mission is to give African composers a digital platform and render their music accessible worldwide by providing introductions to works and translating African language texts into English.”

Artemisia Editions (Cappella Artemisia)

<https://cappella-artemisia.com/artemisia-editions/#>

“Artemisia Editions was created...to complement the work of the Italian ensemble Cappella Artemisia, a group of women dedicated to performing music from Italian convents of the 16th and 17th centuries...Each edition includes an historical introduction, Latin texts with English translations, critical notes, and suggestions for performance practice. All original basso continuo parts have been simply but carefully realized and the original figures retained.”

Dozan World

<https://dozanworld.com/>

“Seeded in the rich soil of the Levant [Eastern Mediterranean subregion], rooted in the Middle East and flowering far beyond geographical barriers, Dozan World gathers artists unified in preserving the music of what they call home and keeping the stories of their cultures alive. We nurture music creation, promote indigenous, folkloric and modern Choral and Instrumental music, and deepen the world’s knowledge and appreciation of music through performances, teaching, composition, arrangements, recording and publishing.” DW’s choral offerings include sacred and secular works in a variety of voicings (unison, 2vv, SSA/A, SAB, SATB).

Dulcamara Press

<https://dulcamarapress.com/index.html>

“Our Mission: to increase diversity and representation

in classical music through the publication and promotion of both historical and contemporary classical music by composers from underrepresented populations.” This resource is not exclusively choral, but features many works for choir.

Hildegard Publishing

<https://www.hildegard.com>

“Our publishing mission is to seek out and publish compositions by women composers which display the highest level of excellence and musical merit.” This resource is not exclusively choral, but features many works for choir.

Muziksea

<https://www.muziksea.com>

Muziksea is dedicated to “Championing Southeast Asian composers and arrangers [and] Advocating the region’s choral repertoire and its associated literature, knowledge, expertise and cultural heritage.” This resource currently includes choral repertoire by over eighty composers from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand.

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NOTES

¹ Institute for Composer Diversity, “Best Practices.” <https://www.composerdiversity.com/best-practices>