



# WOMAN COMPOSER SUNDAY

Society of Women Organists (SWO)  
Woman Composer Sunday  
March 5, 2023

## Recommended pieces

### Table of Contents

<i>Organ Music</i> .....	<b>2</b>
SWO Members' and Friends' Recommendations .....	<b>2</b>
Liturgical organ music .....	<b>4</b>
Prelude/Communion .....	4
Postlude.....	7
Non-liturgical organ music .....	<b>9</b>
Children.....	9
Intermediate.....	9
Concert Level.....	10
<i>Hymns</i> .....	<b>10</b>
<i>Choral music</i> .....	<b>12</b>

## Organ Music

### SWO Members' and Friends' Recommendations

*Suggested by Alastair Johnson*

**Summers, Amy – United Kingdom –**

*Prelude for Organ (2018)*

Sheet music is available via a licence to print.

Please send a submission via the contact page or to [amysummersmusic@hotmail.com](mailto:amysummersmusic@hotmail.com) for copies.

*My favourite piece is a little 'Prelude' written for me by Amy Summers in 2018. It is special because I had a personal part in its creation by asking Amy to write it and I gave the first performance at St Ives PC down here in Cornwall. It is a couple of minutes long, decidedly accessible in style and broadly of an 'English Pastoral' feel. Amy has now gone on to become an accomplished composer but this early piece is lovely. Un published but available from me to anyone who asks nicely!*

*Suggested by Lyn Loewi, SWO member and Member of the American Guild of Organists (AGO)*

Task Force for Gender Equity

**Bennett, Mary Beth (b. 1954) – United States –**

*Prelude and Toccata on Kingsfold (2015)*

Selah Publishing

(downloadable pdf is available as well as hard copy)

*Mary Beth Bennett is a superb organist and improviser. Her Prelude and Toccata on Kingsfold is highly inventive with colourful harmonies and rhythmic surprises that pull the listener in. The prelude uses dreamy chord clusters against the cantus firmus. The Toccata is a virtuosic work but playable! Thundering figuration in the hands is offset by the hymn tune in the pedals. I love this piece! Prelude is medium difficulty. Toccata is difficult.*

*Suggested by Eileen Hunt, Member of the AGO Task Force for Gender Equity*

**Pamela Decker (b. 1955) – United States –**

*On this Day Earth Shall Ring*

Five hymn based compositions for Advent and Christmas

*Nightsong and Ostinato Dances*

*Faneuil Hall*

All published by the Leupold Foundation

*The first piece is very accessible and playable. The second recommendation is a multi-movement work incorporating dance rhythms; it is challenging.*

*The third was commissioned by the Boston AGO National Convention in 2014; it is a multi-movement work celebrating Boston landmarks and the history of the US as it began in the "Cradle of Liberty" which is Boston! Highly recommended and one of Pamela Decker's best!*

*Suggested by Nancy Cooper, Member of the AGO Task Force for Gender Equity*

**Emma Lou Diemer (b. 1927) – United States –**

*I have decided to follow Jesus*

Zimbel Press

Item Number: SU.80101155

*This is a fabulous piece and such fun to play! Diemer's notes say "It has overtones of the 'blues'...along with a suggestion of Latin rhythm, and should be played with proper zeal."*

**Rachel Laurin (b. 1961) – Canada –**

*Rondo*

From: 12 short pieces, Op. 43

Wayne Leupold

*All of her volumes of 12 short pieces (there are six volumes so far, all published by Wayne Leupold) include some manuals-only pieces, and none are more than 4-5 pp.*

**Brenda Portman – United States –**

*Meditation on Finlandia*

From: Peace like a River

The Lorenz Corporation – available by digital download

*Highly recommended!*

*Suggested by Nancy Cooper and Lyn Loewi*

**Price, Florence Beatrice (1887-1953) – United States –**

*Suite No. 1*

*1 Fantasy 2 Fughetta 3 Air 4 Toccato*

ClarNan Editions

Item No. C1.CN19

Please visit SWO's Work Catalogue for an account of Florence Price's work

<https://www.societyofwomenorganists.co.uk/women-composers>

*Everything by Florence Price is recommendable! Lyn Loewi*

*Especially love the Suite No. 1 - Nancy Cooper*

*Suggested by Alison Hoyle*

**Price, Florence Beatrice (1887-1953)**

*Adoration*

Published c. 1951

Available as free download from IMSLP:

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Adoration\\_\(Price%2C\\_Florence\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Adoration_(Price%2C_Florence))

Level of difficulty: easy

Duration - 3.5 minutes

Written for use in church

*My description - gentle, melodic, thoughtful, delightful harmonies.*

## Liturgical organ music

### Prelude/Communion

#### Beginner

**Ashford, Emma Louise Hindle (1850-1930) – United States –**

*At Sunset*

Manuals and optional pedal

[https://imslp.org/wiki/At\\_Sunset\\_\(Ashford%2C\\_Emma\\_Louise\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/At_Sunset_(Ashford%2C_Emma_Louise))

*A lilting piece evocative of a peaceful sunset.*

*O Sanctissima*

Manuals and optional pedal

[https://imslp.org/wiki/O\\_Sanctissima\\_\(Ashford%2C\\_Emma\\_Louise\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/O_Sanctissima_(Ashford%2C_Emma_Louise))

*This piece is based on the Roman Catholic hymn in Latin seeking the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and translates to 'O most holy'.*

**Chrétien, Hedwige (1859-1944) – France –**

*Harmonies Religieuses*

Collection of pieces for manuals and optional pedal

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Harmonies\\_Religieuses\\_\(Chrétien%2C\\_Hedwige\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Harmonies_Religieuses_(Chrétien%2C_Hedwige))

*This set features many pieces appropriate for use in religious services, with titles including 'Communion', 'Offertoire' and 'Regina Angelorum'.*

*In memoriam*

Collection of pieces for manuals and optional pedal

[https://imslp.org/wiki/In\\_memoriam\\_\(Chrétien,\\_Hedwige\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/In_memoriam_(Chrétien,_Hedwige))

*While these pieces are suitable for funeral services, they are also beautiful examples of Chrétien's compositional style.*

**Ferrari, Carlotta (b. 1975) – Italy –**

*Meditazione mistica*

Manuals and simple pedal

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Meditazione\\_mistica\\_\(Ferrari%2C\\_Carlotta\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Meditazione_mistica_(Ferrari%2C_Carlotta))

*This slow-moving piece moves between simple chords, creating a sense of mystery.*

Many more simple pieces available at [https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Ferrari,\\_Carlotta](https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Ferrari,_Carlotta)

**Folville, Eugénie-Emilie Juliette (1870-1946) – Belgium –**

*Communion*

Manuals and pedal

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Communion\\_\(Folville%2C\\_Juliette\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Communion_(Folville%2C_Juliette))

*Some surprising twists in harmony make this piece an evocative choice for communion.*

*Verset sur le thème du tantum*

Manuals and pedal

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Verset\\_sur\\_le\\_thème\\_du\\_«Tantum»%2C\\_6e\\_ton\\_\(Folville%2C\\_Juliette\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Verset_sur_le_thème_du_«Tantum»%2C_6e_ton_(Folville%2C_Juliette))

*A beautiful piece based on the chant tantum ergo, which is often sung during veneration and benediction of the blessed sacrament in the Catholic Church.*

**Prestat, Marie (1862-1933) – France –**

*Offrande à la vierge*

Manuals and optional pedal

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Offrande\\_à\\_la\\_Vierge\\_\(Prestat%2C\\_Marie\\_Josephine\\_Claire\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Offrande_à_la_Vierge_(Prestat%2C_Marie_Josephine_Claire))

*This offering to the virgin is based on the hymn ‘Alma Redemptoris Mater’, translating to ‘Loving Mother of the Redeemer’.*

**Stirling, Elizabeth (1819-1895) – United Kingdom –**

Voluntary in E major

Manuals and pedal

Available via the SWO E-Archive (email [societyofwomenorganists@gmail.com](mailto:societyofwomenorganists@gmail.com) for access)

*This piece moves through a simple chord progression with interesting quaver movement in the middle section.*

### **Intermediate**

**Boulanger, Nadia (1887-1979) – France –**

*3 Improvisations*

*Prelude, Petit Canon and Improvisation*

Manuals only

[https://imslp.org/wiki/3\\_Improvisations\\_\(Boulanger%2C\\_Nadia\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/3_Improvisations_(Boulanger%2C_Nadia))

*A gentle, chromatic prelude is followed by a short, technical canon and an animated improvisation.*

**Boulay, Josephine (1869-1925) – France –**

*Trois Pièces*

1. *Prelude*

Manuals and pedals

2. *Andante*

Manuals and pedals

[https://imslp.org/wiki/3\\_Pièces\\_\(Boulay,\\_Joséphine\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/3_Pièces_(Boulay,_Joséphine))

*The Prelude features a beautiful melody on the oboe at the start and end of the piece, and the Andante has a simple yet beautiful theme.*

**Mulsant, Florentine (b.1962) – France –**

*Licht* Op. 84 (2019)

Commissioned by the organist Yvannich Merlin

Editions Delatour

2min

*This short piece is suitable for organists with some few years of practical experience*

**Advanced**

**Willis, Alison (b. 1971) – United Kingdom –**

*Paschalia*

From: *Three Easter Chorale Preludes* (2017)

Commissioned by the journal 'Choir and Organ'

Downloadable at <https://composersedition.com/alison-willis-three-easter-chorale-preludes/>

*A wonderful Prelude, possibly also to be played as a Postlude for Eastertide starting with meditative and contemplative sections before bursting out in triumph and joy.*

**Concert**

**Weir, Judith (b. 1954) – United Kingdom –**

*The Trees Unfold* (2019)

Commissioned by Anne McAlister for Philip Sawyer who gave the first performance as part of a recital at St Mary's Parish Church, Haddington, on 14th July 2019

Chester Music

Edition No. CH88055

Catalogue No. MUSCH88055

EAN: 5020679000557

*An attractive and intriguing meditation drawing the audience in by offering a broad and varied palette of sounds.*

**Mulsant, Florentine (b.1962) – France –**

*Messe pour orgue* Op. 24 (2000-2002)

1. Entré 2. Offertoire 3. Communion 4. Sortie

Also suitable as a postlude

Dedicated to Marie-Ange Leurent

Furore Verlag

*In this work the composer combines meditation, contemplation and virtuous energy; suitable also for recitals.*

## Postlude

### Beginner

#### **Bonington, Rosalie (1946-2011) – Australia –**

100 Short and Playable Pieces

Features *A diapason occasion; Blow up the trumpet; Domine, refugium* and others

Kevin Mayhew

Product Code 1400466

*A great selection of music from a composer who believed that 'there is a role for composers to address the needs and experiences of a wide community'. (Quoted from Australian Music Centre)*

### Intermediate

#### **Bonis, Mélanie Hélène (1858-1937) – France –**

*Toccata*

Manuals and pedals

<https://www.free-scores.com/download-sheet-music.php?pdf=54924>

*Quaver figurations characterise this energetic piece, as it moves from a ground bass and various sequences towards a vibrant ending.*

#### **Demessieux, Jeanne (1921-1968) – France –**

*Twelve Chorale Preludes on Gregorian Chant Op. 8*

11. Tu es Petrus

Manuals and pedals

Alfred Publishing 1995

ISBN-10 0874876036

*A bold piece based on the chant 'You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church'.*

#### **Fleet, Esther Elizabeth (1809-1851) – United Kingdom –**

*A Voluntary for the Organ*

Manuals only

Available via the SWO E-Archive

*A piece firmly in the English 19<sup>th</sup> century style, it is reminiscent of some of John Stanley's voluntaries.*

#### **Kralik, Mathilde Aloisia (1857-1944) – Austria –**

*Offertorium in E major and Interlude*

Furore FUE 10190

ISMN 9790501821907

*No recordings of her very playable organ works are available of this late Romantic and faith-inspired composer who took private lessons with Anton Bruckner and left more than 250 works, including 3 operas, masses and chamber music.*

**Laselle, Mary A. (c. 1860-1926) – United States –**

*Postlude in C major*

Manuals and optional pedal

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Postlude\\_in\\_C\\_major\\_\(Laselle%2C\\_Mary\\_A.\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Postlude_in_C_major_(Laselle%2C_Mary_A.))

*A short postlude with ragtime inspired rhythms and ternary form*

**MacDonald, Sarah (b. 1968) – Canada/United Kingdom –**

*Trio on Attende, Domine* (2021)

Appears in Gregoriana: Twelve chant-based organ pieces by contemporary women composers (2022)

Compiled by Anna Lapwood

Stainer and Bell

ISMN 9790220227851

*A gentle and joyful trio in D-Major on Attende Domine, also known as the Lent Prose.*

### Advanced

**Price, Florence Beatrice (1887-1953) – United States –**

*Passacaglia and Fugue*

In; Music of Florence Beatrice Price, Complete Organ Works, Volume 5

Edited by Calvert Johnson

ClarNan Editions 2020

Catalogue No.: CN 114

**McDowall, Cecilia (b. 1951) – United Kingdom –**

*Veni, Creator Spiritus* (2022)

Appears in Gregoriana: Twelve chant-based organ pieces by contemporary women composers (2022)

Compiled by Anna Lapwood

Stainer and Bell

ISMN 9790220227851

*This colourful and animating piece was commissioned by the Royal College of Organists in memory of former RCO President and SWO Patron Catherine Ennis.*

### Concert

**McDowall, Cecilia (b. 1951) – United Kingdom –**

*Sounding Heaven and Earth*

Commissioned by Christopher Batchelor for the London Festival of Contemporary Church Music

Oxford University Press - Oxford Contemporary Repertoire Series 2011

Catalogue No.: OCR364

ISBN: 9780193378865 (0193378868)

*The first in a trilogy of organ works inspired by the metaphysical poet George Herbert.*



**Sandresky, Margaret Vardell (b. 1921) – United States –**

*Five Sacred Dances for Solo Organ*

1. Processional: “Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound; they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of your countenance” (Psalm 89:15); 2. “I desire that in every place men should pray, lifting holy hands above” (1 Timothy 2:8); 3. “I will bow down towards your holy temple” (Psalm 138:2); 4. “And his heart was moved, and the heart of his people, as the trees of the wood are moved with the wind” (Isiah 7:2); 5. “And David danced before the ark of the Lord” (2 Samuel 6:15)

Volume 4

Wayne Leupold Editions

*Highly mystical and atmospheric pieces based on biblical texts that entail movement; also suitable for liturgy and meditation.*

## Non-liturgical organ music

### Children

**Laurin, Rachel (b. 1961) – Canada –**

*Ten little Sketches for Ten little Fingers* Op. 92 (2019)

1. *The March of the Pretty Princess* 2. *The Butterfly* 3. *The Clown with a Big Nose* 4. *The Snake’s Arabesque*  
5. *Turn Off the Phone!* 6. *The Jig of the Bells* 7. *The Woodpecker’s Fugue*  
8. *Licorice Twists* 9. *The Angels’ Rondoletto* 10. *The Joyful Sparrow*

For “Do-Organ” (Orgelkit)

Downloadable score available at [www.orgelkids.com](http://www.orgelkids.com)

*This prize-winning work offers highly imaginative and inspiring sketches for young players and audiences alike not only playable on the Do-Organ*

**Sandresky, Margaret Vardell (b. 1921) – United States –**

*Piping at the Circus*

Organ demonstrator for preschool and lower elementary school students

Wayne Leupold Editions Volume 5

### Intermediate

**Alexandra, Liana (1947-2011) – Romania –**

*Opus Posthum*

Manuals and pedal

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Opus\\_Posthum\\_\(Alexandra,\\_Liana\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Opus_Posthum_(Alexandra,_Liana))

*This piece is reminiscent of Arvo Pärt’s ‘Spiegel im Spiegel’ with held chords underneath broken chord figures.*

**Laurin, Rachel (b. 1961) – Canada –**

*Five Short Pieces* Op.100-B (2021)

*Chromatic Prelude- A Bird in the Church (Prayer to Saint Francis) – L'Oiseau Placoteur (The Talkative Bird)*  
– *The Turtledove of Hope – Invention en Si Mineur*

In: Twelve Short Pieces Vol. 6

Leupold Edition

*The latest of the Rachel Laurin's significant series of 'Twelve Short Pieces'*

### Concert Level

**Korsun, Anna (b. 1986) – Ukraine/Germany –**

*furueru* (2021)

Appears in Organ Music in Times of Corona (2021)

Carus Verlag CV18.220/0

12.27 min

*A fascinating piece that plays with micro rhythms, subtle and manifold sound effects and duration. A deep and challenging experience for listeners and performers alike*

**Lutyens, Elisabeth (1906-1983) – United Kingdom –**

*Temenos* (1969)

Commissioned by the Dartington Arts Society

University of York Music Press

Catalogue No.: M570361144

10.48min

*A slowly but persistently enfolding work which allows for rich registration and dedicated to her teacher Harold Darke, possibly 'her most important organ work' (Naxos, 2022)*

### Hymns

**Adams, Sarah (1805 – 1848) – United Kingdom \***

*Nearer my God to Thee*

Anglican Hymns Old & New 525

**Alexander, Cecil Frances (1818-1895) – Ireland/United Kingdom – \***

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

*There is a green hill far away*

*Once in Royal David's City*

The New English Hymnal (NEH) 264, 92 and 34 respectively

*I bind unto myself today (St Patrick's Breastplate) –*

Attributed to St Patrick (372 – 466), translated by Cecil Frances Alexander

Anglican Hymns Old & New 326

**De Mares Oyens, Tera (1932 – 1996) – The Netherlands -**

*Solang es Menschen gibt auf Erden*

Dutch hymn by Huub Oosterhuis, translated into German by Dieter Trautwein  
Evangelisches (Protestant) Gesangsbuch (EG) 427, Catholic hymn book *Gotteslob* (GL) 300

**Elliott, Charlotte (1789 – 1871) – United Kingdom - \***

*Just as I am, without a plea*

Tune (Saffron Walden) by Arthur Henry Brown (1830 – 1926)

NEH 294

**Fronmüller, Frieda (1901 – 1992) – Germany -**

*Frenet euch der schönen Erde*

Tune on a song written by Philipp Spitta from 1827

EG 510

**Havergal, Frances (1836 – 1879) – United Kingdom -**

*Take my life and let it be*

Anglican Hymns Old and New 687, RC Hymn book *Laudate* 874

**Irvine, Jessie (1836 – 1887) – United Kingdom –**

*The Lord's my Shepherd* (Crimond)

Tune by J. Irvine, harmony by T.C. Pritchard

The New English Hymnal 459

**Lafferty, Karen (b. 1948) – United States –**

*Seek ye first the Kingdom of God*

Laudate 820, Anglican Hymns Old & New 652

**Levy –Tanai, Sarah (1911 – 2005) – Israel –**

*Kommt herbei, singet dem Herrn*

EG 577

**Jasnota, Zofia (b. 1944) – Poland –**

*Unfriede herrscht auf der Erde* (*Ciągły niepokój na świecie*)

GL Anhang

**Thurmair, Marie Luise (1912 – 2005) – Italy/Austria –**

Numerous hymns in the German Catholic hymn book *Gotteslob*, among those

*Der Geist des Herrn erfüllt das All* 347

*Komm, o Tröster, Heiliger Geist* 349

*Herr, dir ist nichts verborgen* 428

**Von Schlegel, Katharina Amalia (1697 – 1768) – Germany \***

*Be still, my soul* (tune by Jean Sibelius)

Translated by Borthwick, Jane Laurie (1813-1897)

Anglican Hymns Old & New 63; *Laudate* 780

**Waring, Anna (1823 – 1910) – United Kingdom - \***

*In heavenly love abiding*

Anglican Hymns Old & New 355

**Woll, Erna (1917 – 2005) – Germany –**

*Segne dieses Kind – Bless this child*

Text by Lothar Zenetti  
Catholic German Hymnal *Gotteslob* (GL) 636

\* These women wrote the text to the listed hymns.

## Choral music

**Alberga, Eleanor (b. 1949) – Jamaica –**  
*My Heart Dances (The Lord is my strength and my shield)* (2007)  
SSAATTBB  
Edition Peters

**Briggs, Kerensa (b. 1991) – United Kingdom –**  
*Gloucester Service*  
SATB with divisi and organ

**Burnett, Mary Wheeler (b. 1961) – United States –**  
*Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus*  
St. James Music Press

**Cawrse, Anne (b. 1981) – Australia –**  
*Pilgrim Psalms* (2009)  
SATB choir with divisi  
Australian Music Centre

**d'Este, Leonora (1515-1575) – Italy –**  
*Ego sum panis vitae*  
5 equal voices

Part books available on IMSLP:

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Musica\\_quinque\\_vocum\\_%28Anonymous%29](https://imslp.org/wiki/Musica_quinque_vocum_%28Anonymous%29)

Scores in modern notation can be accessed through the SWO's e-archive, please contact [societyofwomenorganists@gmail.com](mailto:societyofwomenorganists@gmail.com)

**Dienes-Williams, Katherine (b. 1970) – New Zealand/United Kingdom –**  
*St. Paul Eucharist* (1989)  
SATB and organ  
To purchase, contact Katherine on [Katherine@guildford-cathedral.org](mailto:Katherine@guildford-cathedral.org)

**Henderson, Moya (b. 1942) – Australia –**  
*In Paradisum* (1996)  
Four-part choir

**Holst, Imogen (1907-1984) – United Kingdom –**  
*Out of your sleep arise and wake*  
SSAATTB a capella choir  
Faber Music

**Lapwood, Anna (b. 1995) – United Kingdom –**

*O Nata Lux*  
SATB  
Boosey and Hawkes

**Laurin, Rachel (b. 1961) – Canada –**  
*Ubi Caritas* Op.110 (2022)  
For contact and further information please visit <https://www.rachellaurin.com>

**LeFanu, Nicola (b. 1947) – United Kingdom –**  
*The Spirit Moves* (1992)  
SATB  
Novello

**Leighton, Caroline (b. 1985) – United Kingdom –**  
*Could the Sky Forget Rain?*  
SATB and piano or high voice and piano  
Encore publications  
Suitable for Mothering Sunday

**MacDonald, Sarah (b. 1968) – Canada/United Kingdom –**  
*The wounds of Christ* (2018)  
SA Men and organ  
Appears in RSCM Anthems for Sopranos, Altos and Unison Men  
RSCM  
ISBN: B0445

*Hope* (2021)  
Unison or Harmony with optional descant  
Text by Justin Welby  
Encore Publications

**Mason, Grace-Evangeline (b. 1994) – United Kingdom**  
*Tenebrae Factae Sunt* (2018)  
SATB  
Boosey & Hawkes

**Moore, Undine Smith (1904-1989) – United States –**  
*We Shall Walk through the Valley*  
African American Spiritual arranged by Undine Smith Moore  
SATBB  
Appears in Sacred Music by Women Composers: Volume 1 (2019)  
Multitude of Voyces  
ISBN 9781916216402

**Randall, Gail (b. 1955) – United Kingdom –**  
*The Call*  
SATB with soprano solo  
Appears in Sacred Music by Women Composers: Volume 1 (2019)  
Multitude of Voyces  
ISBN 9781916216402

**Reece-Trapp, Ghislaine (b. 1992) – United Kingdom –**

*God's People for God's World* (2020)

Anthem for SATB and organ

Words by Robin Morrish (b. 1938)

Encore Publications

**Rizza, Margaret (b. 1929) – United Kingdom –**

*God of hope and Lord of healing*

Unison voice and piano with optional instrumental parts

Royal School of Church Music A2307

**Robles, Zanaida Stewart (b.1979) – United States –**

*Agnus Dei*

SATB div. a capella

Robles' works can directly be ordered from her website:

<https://zanaidarobles.com/index.php/compositions-2/>

**Thévenot, Maxine (b. 1969) – Canada/United States –**

*Preces and Responses* (2018)

SATB

Paraclete Press 1823M