

Black Composers Recital and Resource List

If you're unsure where to find repertoire, I've compiled a list of resources. While it emphasizes late-intermediate to early-advanced solo piano works (with a few concert pieces included), it should be seen as a starting point—you are not limited to the works listed. The resource list does not include duet or chamber music, though those are certainly welcome.

Please keep your selections to 6–8 minutes maximum. For longer works, check with me in advance, since the recital is limited to one hour. All participation requests are subject to approval.

Send participation requests and any questions to Susie Garcia at spg6611@gmail.com

Resource List

I. *Piano Music of Africa and the African Diaspora*

Scores:

Dr. William H. Chapman Nyaho, ed. (5 Graded Volumes Early Intermediate to Advanced)
Oxford University Press.

Select the link on the title to see the contents of the individual books.

Recordings:

Nyaho's CD *Kete* consists of music from the first two volumes ([Early Intermediate](#) and [Intermediate](#)) of *Piano Music of Africa and the African Diaspora*

Kete [track list](#) | [Spotify](#) | [YouTube](#)

Nyaho's CDs *Senku* and *Asa* contain more advanced repertoire, some of which may be found in Vol 3 [Early Advanced](#), Vol 4 [Advanced](#), and Vol 5 [Difficult](#).

Senku: [track list](#) | [Spotify](#) | [YouTube](#)

Asa: [track list](#) | [Spotify](#) | [YouTube](#)

II. *Arise & Shine: Piano Music by Black Composers for Kids*

Video Recording Project curated by Dr. Leah Claiborne, this is a collection of 33 pieces of varying difficulty (Elementary to Early Advanced) that are appropriate for teaching young pianists. Watch the [YouTube](#) videos. They are beautifully produced.

[track list](#) | [Spotify](#) | [YouTube](#) | [YouTube \(audio only\)](#)

Information on some scores can be found at [Ebony Music](#). If there is something that you are interested in and can't locate, let me know and I can contact Leah.

III. [Salsa Nueva: Vibrant Salsa Beat Meets Contemporary Classical Piano Music.](#)

Elena Riu, ed.

Select the link on the title above to see the contents. These are not specifically pedagogical but are also not super difficult. Not all the pieces in this collection are by composers of African descent. But included are works by Tania León, Argeliers León, Errollyn Wallen

[Spotify](#) | [YouTube](#)

IV. Specifically Pedagogical Collections

- Valerie Capers, [Portraits in Jazz](#). Oxford University Press (Intermediate)

This selection of twelve pieces draws on a variety of jazz styles associated with famous artists including Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, and Ella Fitzgerald.

[Spotify](#)

- Hale Smith: [Faces of Jazz: A Set of Pieces for the Intermediate Pianist](#). E. B. Marks
[YouTube](#)
- Samantha Ege, ed. [Piano Music of the Black Renaissance](#) (Oxford) Intermediate to Advanced.
- Florence Price: [Rediscovered Gems for Piano Solo](#) | Michael Clark, ed. (Hal Leonard)
Intermediate to Early Advanced
- Florence Price: [Piano Works: 28 intermediate to advanced pieces: Preludes, Waltzes, Songs Without Words and others](#) Michael Clark, ed. (Peters)
- Thomas H. Kerr, Jr. [Dancétudes: 7 Vignettes of Dolls and Pets](#) (Piano Education Press) Late Intermediate to Early Advanced.
- Leah Claiborne, ed. Music of Black Composers 2 Levels. (Hal Leonard)
 - [Level 1: Elementary to Upper Elementary](#)
 - [Level 2 Early Intermediate to Intermediate](#)

V. Dr. Aaron B. Mathews [handout from LMTA conference presentation “Let it Shine”](#)

His presentation focused on pedagogical literature that was easy to locate and purchase, with most of it included in these playlists.

YouTube: [Piano Music by Black Composers \(Part One\)](#)

YouTube: [Piano Music by Black Composers \(Part Two\)](#)

VI. ADVANCED REPERTOIRE

If you are looking for more challenging repertoire!

- Piano Music by African-American Composers, Natalie Hinderas, piano
[Spotify](#) | [YouTube](#)
- [65 Black Composers: Piano Solo Music](#)

Select the title to access this playlist. The compiler states: “This playlist is intended as a resource for professional and university-level pianists working in the classical genre.”

ADDITIONAL SCORE RESOURCES

- Helen Walker Hill, ed. [Black Women Composers: A Century of Piano Music](#) (1893-1990)
- Florence Price wrote a lot of piano music at every difficulty level, much of it only now being published. Scores are available through Clar Nan Editions and Schirmer Music. A very small number of her pieces are in the public domain and can be found at [imslp](#). Search for [published works here](#).

DATABASES

Databases are handy for filtered searches for just about anything. These links point to resources by Black composers.

- [Carnegie Mellon University](#)
- [A Seat at the Piano](#)
- [Ebony Music](#)
- [Theodore Front Musical Literature](#)