Women of Note:

Notable Female Composers for Chorus

1. Question & Research Task

Most often when we think of choral composers, we think of old, white-haired men. But there is actually a long history of female composers, from Hildegard in the 12th century to composers like Barbara Baker, whose teaching and arrangements have spanned the better part of the 21st century.

A composer's work may be influenced by a variety of biographical, social, cultural, and historical contexts. Your focus will be to research the lives of few female choral composers of the 20th century to today in order to determine how their life experiences influenced their music and work.

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NYU Women's Choir performs Barbara Baker's arrangement of The Storm is Passing Over (2021).

Image Source: YouTube

In this Slam Dunk, you will conduct brief, focused research to respond to the inquiry question:

How do a composer's life experiences influence her music?

2. Information Sources

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Choose several of the information sources linked here to complete the Student Activity on Slide 3.

You will use the resources to gather biographical information about a notable female composer for piano. As you research, you will examine influences on the composer's music.













•	University of New
	<u>Hampshire</u>
_	Darker Cumpheny

Amy Beach

- Parker Symphony Orchestra
- World Book
 Advanced
- Celebrating Amy
 Beach

Emma Lou Diemer

- Emma Lou Diemer
 Biography
 - Santa Barbara Music
- Emma Lou Diemer Interview

Laura Farnell

- Laura Farnell
 Singer
- Carl Fischer Music

Andrea Ramsey

- Andrea Ramsey
- Santa BarbaraPublishing
- Music Spoke

Mary Lynn Lightfoot

- Choristers Guild
- An Interview
 with Mary Lynn
 Lightfoot

Oral History
 Interview with
 Barbara Baker

Barbara Baker

Creative Commons-licensed Images: Amy Beach – <u>Wikipedia</u>, Emma Lou Diemer—<u>emmaloudiemermusic.com</u> Laura Farnell– Alfred Music, Andrea Ramsey—Andrea Ramsey Music, Mary Lynn Lightfoot—JW Pepper Music, Barbara Baker– Children's Choir USA

3. Student Activity

Choose one of the female piano composers on Slide 2 to research her life and musical influences. Use this graphic organizer to take notes.

As you research, think about how the composer's life experiences influenced the creation and performance of her music.

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Slam Dunk Research Note

Women of Note: Notable Female Composers for Piano

Select one female piano composer (Amy Beach, Clara Wieck Shumann, Fanny Mendelssohm, Joan Towers, or Jennifer Higdon to research the following information using sites on Slam Dunk Slide 2 or other reliable sources you find. Cite your sources for a Bibliography/Works Cited.

Research Topics	Notes & Sources
Name	Type name of composer here
Birth	Types notes here
Death	Types notes here
Nationality	Types notes here
Era	Types notes here
Famous Work(s)	Types notes here
Age When She Began Composing	Types notes here
Education	Types notes here
Important Fact #1	Types notes here
Important Fact #2	Types notes here
Important Fact #3	Types notes here
Important Fact #4	Types notes here
Important Fact #5	Types notes here
Important Fact #6	Types notes here
Important Fact #7	Types notes here
Important Fact #8	Types notes here

4. Assessment Activity

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How do a composer's life experiences influence her music?

Influential or famous people often have information published about their lives and work in a quick, easy-to-read format.

Use one of these tools to share information about the female composer you researched:

- Profile Publisher (Teacher resource)
- Trading Card (Teacher resource)
- Digital Poster using <u>Discovery Education Board</u> (<u>Teacher resource</u>)
- Other digital or non-digital tool approved by your teacher

Refer success criteria on this <u>rubric</u> as you create your final product.

Be ready to share your new knowledge with your classmates!

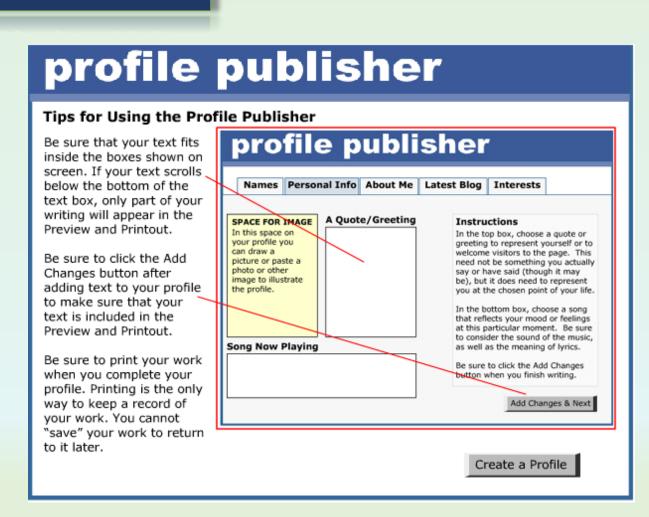
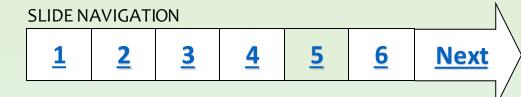


Image Source: ReadWriteThink

5. Enrichment Activities



Image Source: Wikipedia Commons



Learn how to sing a song by one of these female composers! Using the sites listed below, research a female composer's songs. Teach yourself the music and sing the song for your choir class. Then, write your own song in the style of this song. Choose your music and lyrics, and remember to draw upon your own life experiences and knowledge of music to compose it.

Songs by Emma Lou Diemer

List of Compositions by Amy Beach

Laura Farnell Music

Andrea Ramsey Songs

Songs by Mary Lynn Lightfoot

Barbara Baker Songs

6. Teacher Resources

Learning Standards Alignment

Content Learning Standards

Standard 8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.

Standard 10: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.

Standard 11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.

Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy

Reading: 1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

Writing: 7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

<u>AASL Standards Framework for Learners</u> Inquire: Build new knowledge by inquiring, thinking critically, identifying problems, and developing strategies for solving problems.

Think: Learners display curiosity and initiative by:

I.A.2 Recalling prior and background knowledge as context for new meaning.

Create: Learners engage with new knowledge by following a process that includes:

I.B.1 Using evidence to investigate questions. I.B.3 Generating products that illustrate learning.

Share: Learners adapt, communicate, and exchange learning products with others in a cycle that includes:

I.C.1 Interacting with content presented by others.

Grow: Learners participate in an ongoing inquiry-based process by:

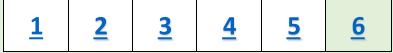
I.D.2 Engaging in sustained inquiry.

P21 Framework: 21st Century Student Outcomes

3. Information, Media & Technology Skills: Information Literacy: Access information efficiently and effectively; Use information accurately and creatively for the issue or problem at hand.

ICT Literacy: Use technology as a tool to research, organize, evaluate and communicate information.

SLIDE NAVIGATION



Grades 9-12 Chorus

Objective: Students will conduct brief, focused research in order to describe how personal and cultural factors influenced the creation and performance of a selected female choral composer's music.

Time Frame: 1-2 90-minute class periods

Notes to the teacher:

- Collaborate with your school library media specialist to plan and implement this lesson.
- Have students use learning supports provided in any BCPS Digital Content in the Apps Portal included in this lesson. Refer to Digital Content Snapshots & Support resources for guidance as needed.
- Consider <u>using the Schoology Assignment Apps feature</u> to assign Microsoft and Google documents and files for students to access, edit, and submit through Schoology.
- If you will be providing paper copies of the graphic organizer on Slide 3 for note-taking, delete the words "Type Notes Here" and expand the rows to provide room for hand-written notes.
- Both Laura Farnell and Mary Lynn Lightfoot have their own Facebook pages, which are public but not accessible to students on BCPS devices/in BCPS network..