

Women of Note:

Notable Female Composers for Piano

1. Question & Research Task

Beethoven, Bach, Mozart, Brahms, and Tchaikovsky are all thought to be some of the greatest classical composers. However, not all great composers are men! Since the Romantic era, many women have had a significant impact in composing great music, including music for piano.

Rachel Portman, a contemporary composer, has written scores for many motion pictures. Your teacher/librarian will play a sample of her compositions from the original soundtrack for several movies.

A composer's work may be influenced by a variety of biographical, social, cultural, and historical contexts.

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?



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Click the image above to play the [Rachel Portman piano composition](#). (YouTube video)

2. Information Sources

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. You may search BCPS databases from the [Apps Portal](#) or Biography In Context (via [BCPL databases](#)) for additional information if needed. As you research, you will examine influences on the composer's music.



Amy Beach	Clara Wieck Shumann	Fanny Mendelssohn	Joan Tower	Jennifer Higdon
<ul style="list-style-type: none">University of New HampshireParker Symphony OrchestraWorld Book AdvancedCelebrating Amy Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Dallas Symphony OrchestraParker Symphony OrchestraDiscovery Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Parker Symphony OrchestraSIRS Discoverer“The Sounds and Sweet Air”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bard Faculty NewsThe Kennedy CenterGale In Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Her Personal SiteNPR ArticleLibrary of Congress Webcast

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.

Slam Dunk Research Notes

Women of Note: Notable Female Composers for Piano

Select one female piano composer (Amy Beach, Clara Wieck Schumann, Fanny Mendelssohn, 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

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](#))
- [BioCube](#) ([Teacher resource](#))
- Digital Poster using [Discovery Education Boardbuilder](#) ([Teacher resource](#))
- Google Slides
- Other digital or non-digital tool approved by your teacher

Refer success criteria on this [rubric](#) as you create your final product.

Be ready to share your new knowledge about a female composer with your classmates!



Dorothy Rudd Moore's work was never formally published, but she founded the Society of Black Composers. Click her picture to learn more about her life and work.

5. Enrichment Activities

SLIDE NAVIGATION

1

2

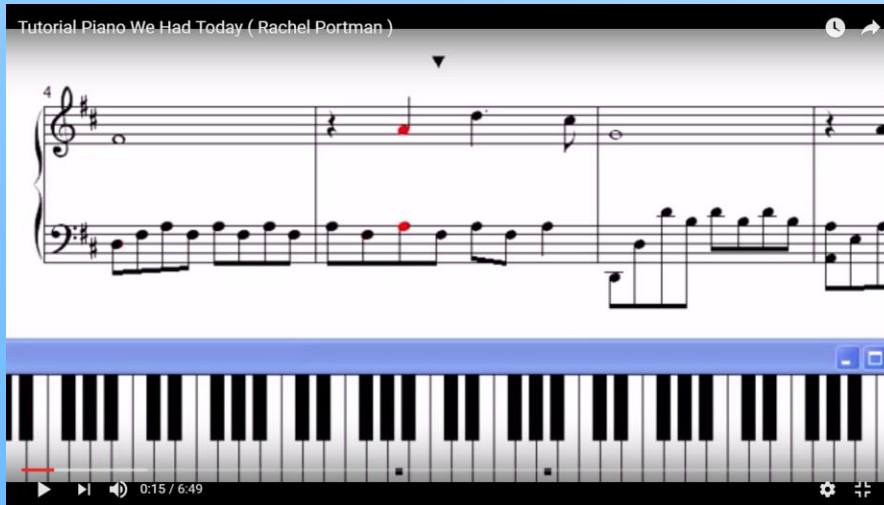
3

4

5

6

Next



Images Source: www.youtube.com

Want to learn more about female piano composers?

- Select the image on the left to view and listen to an [interview](#) with Joan Tower about her piece “Made in America.”
- Compare and Contrast another female composer with the one that you selected for the assessment. Use may use a [Venn Diagram](#).
- Learn how to play a piece from female composer Rachel Portman using this [video tutorial](#).
- Using your piano or a [virtual piano](#), compose your own piece in a similar style to the composer you researched and/or to represent the influences in your own life.

6. Teacher Resources

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
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Learning Standards Alignment

MD State Standards for Music

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.

MCCRELA Standards for Grades 9-12

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.

AASL Standards for the 21st Century Learner

1.1.6 Read, view, and listen for information presented in any format (e.g. textual, visual, media, digital) in order to make inferences and gather meaning.

2.1.3 Use strategies to draw conclusions from information and apply knowledge to curricular areas, real-world situations, and further investigations.

P21 Framework: 21st Century Student Outcomes

3. Information, Media & Technology Skills: Information Literacy: Access information efficiently (time) and effectively (sources); 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.

High School Piano: Grade 10-12

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 piano composer's music.

Time Frame: 2 80-minute classes

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-licensed Digital Content from the [Apps Portal](#) included in this lesson. Refer to [Digital Content Snapshots & Support resources](#) for guidance as needed. Some resources (ie. Scholastic Go) open from the PDF after authenticating.
- Consider [using the Schoology Assignment Apps feature](#) to assign Microsoft and Google documents and files for students to access, edit, and submit through Schoology Teacher should preview all links for content.
- 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.