



**American Guild of Organists (AGO)/Society of Women Organists (SWO)
Play-a-Woman-Composer Sunday**

Recommended pieces

Von Preussen, Amalia (1723 – 1787)

Sonata in F for flute and basso continuo - transcribed for the organ by Christa Rakich

1. *Adagio* ca. (3.50min) 2. *Allegretto* (3.55min) 3. *Allegro ma non troppo* (2.30min)

Available on <https://www.christarakich.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Sonata-in-F-Princess-Anna-Amalia.pdf> (Public domain)

Medium

An effective transcription of Amalia's famous Sonata with an added middle part

Ashford, Emma Louise Hindle (1850-1930)

Fanfare in G-Minor

Arranged by Richard Williams

Matthew Benson

S0.160523

Medium to difficult

Ca. 2:30min

This piece seems to be a crowd pleaser when played with energy (but not fast). The theme is punched out staccato, and the music needs to breathe at the end of phrases. (Alasdair MacLaughlin)

Andrée, Elfrida (1841-1929)

Larghetto in C-Minor (1893)

In: Female Composers – 22 Organ Pieces from the 19th and 20th Century

Schott

ED9741

Easy to medium

Ca. 2min

This short piece would certainly have been written to be played in church services and possibly also used for teaching purposes

Bacewicz, Grażyna (1909 – 1969)

Esquise (1966)

PWM (Polskie Wydawnictwo Muzyczne)

Catalogue No.: PWM7325

Difficult

Ca. 3:10min

A vibrant and fulminating piece emanating from a musical period marked by stylistic changes and in which the composer worked out her own brand of sonorism

Barraine, Elsa (1910-1999)

Prelude and Fugue in G-Minor (1929)

In: Organ Music by Female Composers - 22 Organ Pieces from the 19th and 20th Century

Schott

ED 9741

Difficult

Prelude: ca. 0:57min; *Fugue*: ca.5:45min

A work composed in 1929 and dedicated to Barraine's teacher Paul Dukas; its fugue is based on a Jewish hymn

Beach, Amy Marcy Cheney (1867-1944)

Scottish Legend Op. 54 No 1 (1903)

Arranged for organ by Robert Gower

Oxford University Press 2021

ISBN 9780193533059

Amy Beach's Scottish Legend evokes Scotland in its mistful melody, conveying a folk-like atmosphere, but spiced up with a few late-Romantic harmonies; already recognised in its original version for piano the transcription for organ might be a true discovery

Bennett, Mary Beth (b. 1954)

Prelude & Toccata on Kingsfold

Selah Publishing Company, available at

<https://www.selahpub.com/OrganKeyboard/OrganTitles/160-824-PreludeToccataKingsfold.html>

Prelude: Medium, 6.15min; *Toccata*: Difficult, 4.15min

The Prelude and Toccata are completely independent pieces and are a suitable length for a prelude and postlude pair. The two can also be played together as a diptych with a striking contrast of mood. This piece combines sophisticated counterpoint, rhythmic verve, and a sophisticated harmonic palette...." (AAM Journal)

Partita on "Veni creator spiritus" (1994)

I. *Reszitative* II. *Chorale* III. *Bicinium (bright duo)* IV. *Celestes (ornamented cantus)* V. *Hocket (hiccup)* VI. *Pedal Cadenza* VII. *Toccata*

Augsburg Fortress 1994

ASIN: B000JZKHP4

Medium

7min

Based on the Pentecost chant. This piece is currently out of print but available on:

<https://www.amazon.com/Partita-Veni-Creator-Spiritus-Organ/dp/B000JZKHP4>

Variations on 'Outbursts of Spring, Triumphant' (2009)

I. *Intrada* II. *Ostinato* III. *Celestes* IV. *Aria* V. *Interlude* VI. *Toccata*

Commissioned by the Mid-Atlantic AGO for its 2009 Regional convention

ECS Publishing

Catalogue No.: ECS8692

EAN: 0600313486920

UPC: 600313486920

10min

Built on an original theme by the late composer Ludwig Diehn. Each movement is relatively short, yet varied in character. Rather French in its harmonies. (Mary Beth Bennett)

“Hommage à Langlais: Song Of Peace in a Time Of War”

A tribute to Jean Langlais commissioned by the Northern Virginia AGO for its 50Th anniversary
ECS Publishing

Catalogue No.: ECS8691

EAN: 0600313486913

UPC: 600313486913

Medium

5min

Beginning with a soft section reminiscent of Jean Langlais’ “song of Peace”, it alternates with more dissonant loud chords like cries of anguish. The quiet ending uses the hymn tune “Victory (The Strife is O’er) to weave a tapestry of 2 melodic themes combined. (Mary Beth Bennett)

Bingham, Judith (b. 1952)

Ancient Sunlight (2003)

I Infancy (2:38) *II Betrothal* (2:74) *III Annunciation* (3:11)

Edition Peters

EP71196

ISMN 9790577004747

Difficult

This work takes as its inspiration Giotto’s three paintings in Scrovegni Chapel of Padua depicting the early life of the Virgin Mary

Chaminade, Cécile (1857-1944)

La Nef Sacré - Collection of liturgical pieces for Harmonium [organ manuals]

Enoch Edition

Producer No. ENOCH 8711

Item No. 312801

Various levels of difficulty

Ca. 18-19min

A wonderful and rich collection of liturgical pieces, including an Offertoire (au Christ-Roi), Offertoire (ou Communion), Quatre Pastorales (pour la Messe de Minuit), Marche funèbre and others

Chen, Chelsea (b. 1983)

Let Us Break Bread Together

In: Oxford Hymn Settings for Organists Vol. 7 - Holy Communion

Edited by Rebecca Groom te Velde and David Bendall

Oxford University Press

Medium

Ca 2.30min

A beautiful and calm chorale prelude to this African American Spiritual, possibly one of the most commonly sung hymns during communion

Decker, Pamela (b. 1955) (2018 AGO Distinguished Composer)

Jesu, dulcis memoria (2011)

Wayne Leupold Editions 2011

Item Number: WY.WL710010

Medium to difficult

Ca. 2:30min

A prelude and fugue based upon the chant that gives the work its name

Tango Toccata on a Theme by Melchior Vulpius (2010)

Wayne Leupold Editions

Item Number: WY.WL710009

Medium to difficult

8:20min

A set of variations, based on a hymn tune of 1609; contains tango rhythms and flamenco-influenced modal language

The Seven Last Words and Triumph of Christ (a two-volume entity) (2018)

Commissioned by the AGO for the Biennale National Convention in Kansa City in 2018

Wayne Leupold Editions

SKU: WL610018

Ca. 36:30min

Easy to medium

Meditations on the seven last words of Jesus on the cross; commissioned and premiered at the 2018 National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri

Demessieux, Jeanne (1921 – 1968)

Répons pour le Temps de Pâques (1962/63)

Organ Durand

Catalogue No.: DF01404300

Difficult

Ca. 6:25min

A joyful and triumphant Toccata based on the possible oldest German liturgical song 'Christ ist erstanden – Christ is risen'

Veni Sancte Spiritus (1947)

From *Sept Méditations sur le Saint-Esprit Op. 6, No 1*

Durand 2001

Catalogue No.: DF01331200

Ca. 8:00min

Difficult

An awe-inspiring and intense invocation well suited as anticipation of Pentecost

Diemer, Emma Lou (b. 1927)

"I have decided to follow Jesus"

Zimbel Press, available through Subito Music

Catalogue No. 80101155

A slightly jazzy atmosphere pervades this joyful and very rhythmic piece

Psalm 150 (Based on Nicaea)

In: *Seasonal Psalms for Organ Vol. 1*

Sacred Music Press

Item Number: LO.70-1258S

Intermediate level

A contemporary and free interpretation of the psalm verse, written for the feast of Holy Trinity

Dubkova, Irina (b. 1957)

In the constellation of Sagittarius (2008)

Commissioned by the Tchaikovsky Moscow State Conservatory for the First Alexander Goedicke International Competition for Organists

Le Chant du Monde Éditions Musicales, Paris

Ref. OR4841

CDM 2010

Difficult

8:00min

The main idea of this piece relates to the sign of Sagittarius - both as a Cosmic Constellation and as a zodiac sign. The result is a rapid, energetic image with unexpected melodic turns and with an end-to-end type of development, whereby the musical form is built on the principle of crescendo from beginning to end.

The Gardens of Semiramis (2005)

In: "Organ music by contemporary Moscow composers"- Publication of the Moscow State P.I. Tchaikovsky Conservatory

Available at Internet-shop MuzArt24.ru; e-mail: info@muzart24.ru

ISBN 979-0-706360-22-5

Difficult

8:06min

The idea of these composition is that wonderful gardens exist in our time – in the soul of every person. And this is the most important of the Wonders of the World. And everyone is responsible for they do not disappear, but bloom and bring love and joy to the world. (Irina Dubkova)

Einfelde, Maija (b. 1939)

Ave Maria (1994)

Musica Baltica 2002

Catalogue No.: MB 0058

ISMN:979-0-706651-95-8

Ca. 7min

Difficult

A virtuous, energetic and powerful piece which uses a variety of techniques to achieve its immediacy

Falcinelli, Rolande (1920-2006)

Petit Livre de Prières pour Orgue

I. À St. Dominique II. À Notre Père III. À Notre Seigneur Jésus-Christ IV. Au St. Esprit V. À la Très Sainte Trinité VI. Au Cœur Sacré de Jésus VII. À Sainte Thérèse de L'Enfant Jésus VIII. Ora pro nobis IX. Amen

Alphonse Leduc

Edition No.: AL27869

SKU: sal27869

No 6: *Au Cœur Sacré de Jésus* 3:47min; No 8: *À Sainte Thérèse de L'Enfant Jésus* 2:01min

Intense and almost mystical reflections with various degree of tensity and relief

Frances-Hoad, Cheryl (b.1980)

Two Organ Voluntaries (2016)

Commissioned by Lucy Sheerman and Bettina Furnée with funds from Arts Council England.

Premiered on 16th February 2017 at Peterborough Cathedral by David Humphreys

Cadenza Music

Catalogue No. CAZCFHORG01

ISMN 9790570474769

11min

These two organ voluntaries, 'Where does your faith lie?' and 'Taking your leave' were written for Even You Song at Peterborough Cathedral, a collaborative work for cathedral choir, children's choir and organ inspired by the structure and themes of Choral Evensong

Fromm-Michaels, Ilse (1888-1986)

Passacaglia Op. 16 (1933) -Version for organ solo (1977)

Beriato Music Verlag

Merseburger Berlin

EM899

Order No.: BT. VMBEM899

Ca. 4.30min

Difficult

A rich and symphonic work transcribed by the composer herself who was banned from work by the Nazi Regime shortly after its highly successful premiere in 1933

Houben, Eva Maria (b. 1955)

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (1990)

In: Female Composers – 22 Organ Pieces from the 19th and 20th Century

Schott Edition ED 9741

Easy to medium

Described by the composer as follows: 'the Saviour came long ago – and yet we still await his coming. This plea, combined with hope, embraces the certainty of faith: now and forever.'

Joulain, Jeanne (1920-2010)

Prélude à l'Introït: Pour La Fête Des Rameaux

In: *Préludes à l'Introït – Orgue et Liturgie Vol. 48*

Editions Musicales de la Schola Cantorum

SCHOLA -OL48

Ca. 2:50min

A powerful prelude for Palm Sunday to mark Jesus triumphant entry into Jerusalem

Kim, Marianne (b. 1972)

Variations on "The Church in the Wildwood"

In: More Love to Thee – Hymn Settings with Jazz Spirit

Lorenz Publishing Company

70/2243L or 370/2243L (digital version)

Medium to difficult

8:52min

A colourful and very effective set of variations that merge features of jazz style with traditional sounds – suitable for recitals and as a sortie

Larsen, Libby (b. 1950)

Prelude on 'Veni creator spiritus' (2002)

OUP

ISBN: 9780193864603

Medium to difficult

3:25min

A widely played and high-ranking piece written as the Pentecost entry for a multi-composer anthology based on the liturgical year

Lapwood, Anna (b. 1995)

Britten-Lapwood: *Four Sea Interludes from Peter Grimes* (1945/2021)

I. Dawn (3:37) II. Sunday Morning (4:11min) III. Moonlight (5:16min) IV. Storm (ca. 4min)

Boosey and Hawkes

Difficult

17min

The Four Sea Interludes were the first of Britten's pieces that I got to know in depth through playing the harp part. I remember being struck by how accurately they captured the spirit of that part of the country, whether the sounds of the sea or the bustle of a Sunday morning with church bells ringing across the landscape... (Anna Lapwood)

Laurin, Rachel (b. 1961)

Prelude and Fugue in F minor Op. 45 (2008)

Hinshaw Music, Inc

Item Number: HL.8765626

Difficult

9:42min

A prize-winning colourful work receiving the first Holtkamp-AGO Composition Award in 2008

12 Short Pieces, Vol. 1, Op. 43

Wayne Leupold

SKU: WL600070

Easy to medium

Various lengths, about 2min on average

Volume 1 and all subsequent volumes have short, accessible pieces useful for service playing, as well as some in each volume that would be suitable for recital use.

Mackie, Miriam (b. 1951)

Ravelling (2011)

For information and purchase please contact miriammackie@googlemail.com

7.14min

Medium

A slowly moving meditative piece juxtaposing a solo voice with a sound palette, thereby enabling mutual inspiration and responses

McDowall, Cecilia (b. 1951)

Sacred and hallowed fire (2013)

Commissioned by Harrison & Harrison as part of their 150 years celebration of organ building
OUP 2013

Catalogue No.: OCR434

Difficult

7:02min

The second piece of a trilogy of works for organ by McDowall which draws from the poetry of George Herbert

Celebration (2016)

Oxford University Press (2016)

ISBN: 9780193406131

Intermediate/Advanced

Ca. 7.15min

Celebration is a rewarding piece to learn and perform. Infectious catchy rhythms benefit from practising separate hands, especially the RH, and sitting with the body tilted to the left when pedals are used. Written for a graduation, any festive occasion is graced by a Celebration!

O Antiphon Sequence (2018)

I. *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom) (2:19min) II. *O Adonai* (1:38min) III. *O Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse) (2:38min) IV. *O Clavis David* (O Key of David) (1:22min) V. *O Oriens* (O Morning Star) (5:07min) VI. *O Rex Gentium* (O King of the Nations) (2:19min) VII. *O Emmanuel* (2:44min)

Commissioned by the American Guild of Organists for performance at the 2018 AGO National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri

OUP

O Antiphon Sequence was conceived as a recital piece, although each of its individual movements would also work in a liturgical context

Moore, Undine Smith (1904-1989)

Variations on 'Nettleton' (1976)

In: African-American Music Anthology Vol. 2

Morning Star Music Publishers

Medium

Ca. 2:25min

These kaleidoscopic organ variations (1976) offer a glimpse of Moore as an accomplished classical pianist and improviser

Mulsant, Florentine (b. 1962)

Dix Litanies pour Orgue op. 43 (2012)

Furore

SKU: fue 10110

ISMN: 979-0-50185-110-5

Medium

17min

Written for young organists as well as an experienced organist, they allow the player to discover the different possibilities of the organ

Two Poems for Organ Op. 111 (2021)

I. *On the Hill* II. *I hear your voice*

To be published by Furore Verlag

For access and information please contact <https://www.florentinemulsant.com/contact-20.html>

Difficult

8min

The two poems describe the spiritual and beautiful around the Chapel of Ronchamp, home to the community of the Poor Clare Sisters

Nixon, June (b. 1942)

Preludes Amazing (book of 50 chorale preludes)

Kevin Mayhew

SKU: 83093989

Easy to intermediate

Various lengths

A wonderful collection of 50 Preludes on the best-loved hymn tunes, full of felicities and a delight to the ear

Portman, Brenda (b. 1980)

"And Again I say, Rejoice!"

In: *Again, I Say. Rejoice!* Festive Postludes for Organ

The Lorenz Corporation

Item No. e311857 (digital download)

Medium

4'04min

This is a rhythmically energetic work. A fitting postlude to a festive liturgy. moderate difficulty

"Elegy"

Winner of the Twin Cities AGO Composition Competition in 2016

In: *Peace Like a River* - Preludes and Meditations for Organ

The Lorenz Corp.

Item No. 70/2189S (e312038 for digital download of this separate piece)

Easy

4:55min

Suitable for any meditative liturgical occasion

"Meditation on 'Finlandia'"

In: *Peace Like a River* – Preludes and Meditations for Organ

Featured in the closing Evensong service at the National Cathedral, that was part of the Association of Anglican Musicians National Conference online in June 2021

The Lorenz Corp.

Item No. 70/2189S (e312041 for digital download of this separate piece)

3:52min

This easy setting of "Be still my soul" uses warm, slightly dissonant chords for the accompaniment.

Price, Florence (1887-1953)

Suite No. 1 (1942)

I. *Fantasy* (3:20min) II. *Fughetta* (3:28min) III. *Air* (3:19min) IV. *Toccato* [sic] (3:30min)

ClarNan Editions

Item No. C1.CN19

Medium (I, III) to difficult (II, IV)

Late Romantic style; the individual movements can be played independently; in particular the first and last movement might work very well as prelude and postlude. The Fughetta is a favourite of Price's oeuvre of twenty organ works

Cantilena

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

ClarNan Editions (2020)

CN114

A charming and lyrical "character" piece by the first Black woman to succeed as a classical composer.

Rakich, Christa (b. 1952)

Erhalt uns, Herr (2021)

Available on IMSLP https://s9.imslp.org/files/imglnks/usimg/d/d3/IMSLP717621-PMLP1144241-Erhalt_ uns, Herr.pdf (Public Domain)

Grade 7

Concert – Liturgical

3:05min

This piece is based on hymnal dating back to Martin Luther's time; it is organized in two alternating sections, one in the form of a ritornelle, the other soloing out the hymn tune in its left hand.

Sandresky, Margaret (b. 1921) (2004 AGO Distinguished Composer)

Wedding March

In: The Organ Music of Margaret Vardell Sandresky, Vol. 1

Wayne Leupold Editions

SKU: WL600031

Medium

3:42min

Excellent processional music, very usable piece for any festive occasion

Schonthal, Ruth Esther Hadassa (1924 – 2006)

The Temptation of St. Anthony (1989/90)

Written for the First Presbyterian Church in Greenwich, Connecticut

Furore Verlag

Catalogue No.: FURV2620

ISMN: 9790500121626 (M500121626)

Difficult

Ca. 23min

This work is organised in 9 movements and in its language reflects the composer's deep - rootedness in European tradition: high levels of expressivity paired with the mastery of traditional and modern compositional techniques

Schumann, Clara (1819-1896)

Prelude and Fugue in B-flat, Op. 16, No. 2 (1846)

Furore

Catalogue Number: FURV1590

ISMN: 9790500120599 (M500120599)

Easy to medium

Ca. 16:30min

As one of the three Preludes and Fugues (op. 16) this piece was the result of the intensive study of counterpoint jointly undertaken by Clara and Robert Schumann in 1846

Smyth, Ethel (1858-1944)

O Herzeleid, o Traurigkeit (1882 – 84)

From: *Chorale Preludes for Organ*

Vivace Press (2006)

Item No. 5349675 and 5349675e (digital download)

Ca.: 6.05min

A wonderful innermost piece from a set of five Short Chorale Preludes by this significant 19th/20th century English composer, revealing its closeness to late Romantic tradition but moving beyond in its expressivity

Stirling, Elisabeth (1819 – 1895)

Maestoso

In: *Moderato & Maestoso*

Hildegard Publishing Company

Item: 493-00094

5:18min

Medium

A rich, dignified overture in d minor starts the Maestoso. A fairly advanced pedal technique is required to play the next section, which has steady eighth notes in the pedal. The piece was unpublished during E. Stirling's lifetime

Tailleferre, Germaine (1892-1983)

Nocturne (1977)

In: *The New Organ Album for Organ*; Series: Universal Orgel Edition Vol. 2

Universal Edition Wien

UE 17 480

For a license to reprint please contact <https://www.universaledition.com/germaine-tailleferre-2558/works/nocturne-10911?form=reprint>

Easy to medium

Ca. 1:45min

This is a short, quiet and reflective piece, the technical challenges coming from sustaining a legato phrasing throughout. Can also be used in a church service.

Talma, Louise (ca. 1906 – 1996)

Where Thou goest, I go: Canon for Organ (unpublished) (1946)

Public domain; to receive a copy please contact societyofwomensorganist@gmail.com

3:05min

Medium

Talma wrote this piece for the wedding of socialite Edith Gould. The canon portrays the words of Ruth in the Bible. They also refer to Talma's close and loving relationship with Nadia Boulanger.

Wang, An-Ming (b. 1929)

Fantasy for Solo Organ (1988)

Vivace Press 2001

Duration: 7:17min

Medium to difficult

The composition expresses a person's desire to probe the deeper meaning of life through fantasy and mysticism. The choral represents a Blessing of the soul.

Weir, Judith (b. 1954)

The Tree of Peace (2016)

Commissioned in loving memory of Richard Axtell (1952-2015), talented and much-loved organist at the Parish of St. Andrew, West Tarring.

Chester Music

Medium

5:47min

A modest two manual and pedal instrument (32-note compass is required) will suffice for this elegant and unassuming work. Despite the simplicity of the music, it carries all the hallmarks of Weir's unmistakably refined idiom. (Stephen Farr, Choir & Organ 2018)