



The Growing Sisterhood of Organists

AGO Task Force for Gender Equity and the
Society for Women Organists

Introductions

WHAT DOES GENDER EQUITY MEAN?

Gender equity means respecting all people without discrimination, regardless of their gender. It also means addressing gender inequalities that limit a person's ability to access opportunities to achieve better health, education and economic opportunity based on their gender.

AGO Task Force for Gender Equity

Director: Nancy Cooper, DMA,
CAGO



- Newsletter
- Resource Lists
- TAO Articles
- Webinars



What do the numbers say?

AGO Members Survey Report
on Demographics,
Communications, and Training

Member Birth Decade	% Male	% Female
1920s	54	46
1930s	47	53
1940s	53	47
1950s	59	41
1960s	69	31
1970s	74	26
1980s	74	26
1990s	72	28

Society of Women Organists

Co-Chair: Anne Marsden Thomas



- Adjustable Bench Campaign
- Membership
- Resource Lists
- Spotlight Articles





Ongoing Issues

- Accessibility to music
 - Articles by and about women
 - Lack of mentors
 - Legal resources
 - Representation in leadership
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Discussion Panel

**What women organists
have inspired
your own work?**

**Share how their music has
enriched the field.**

**What initiatives have you
been involved in to enrich
the field and encourage
women to play the organ?**

**What more can be done to
encourage girls to start
learning the organ?**

**How can we encourage
more women to teach the
organ?**

**Where do you see the
growing presence and
unique contributions of
women in the organ field?**

**Describe any projects
you're involved in that
encourage young women
to pursue careers in sacred
music composition and/or
performance.**

**What steps can we take, as
a community, to ensure a
more equitable space for
composers and musicians?**

What can you, as an individual, do to further gender equity?

Questions?

Lightning Round:
**What is a piece that you
have learned and played
by a woman composer in
the last year?**

Service Music

- Ethel Smyth (1858-1944) *Mass in D*
available through IMSLP.org
 - Amy Beach (1867-1944)/Olivia Sparkhall
Amy Beach Canticles
available through Chichester Music Press
 - Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951) *Missa Brevis: Tongues of Fire* available through Selah Publishing
 - Sarah MacDonald (b. 1968) *Evening Service in A flat*
available through RSCM
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Choral Anthems

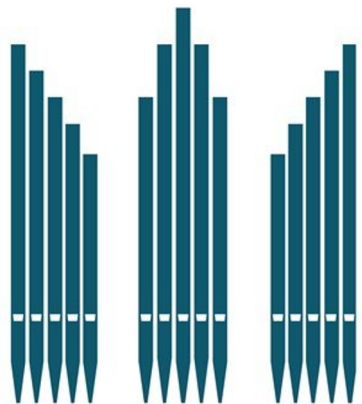
- Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179)/
arr. by Katerina Gimon *O Virtus Sapientiae*
available through MusicSpoke and Graphite Publishing
 - Amy Beach (1867-1944) *Let This Mind Be in You*
available through IMSLP.org
 - Alice Parker (1925-2023) *Common Ground*
available through ECS Publishing Group
 - Mary McDonald (b. 1956) *God Almighty Is*
available through Hope Publishing
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Organ Works

- Louise Farrenc (1804-1875) *Fugue on 2 Subjects*
found in Oxford Organ Music by Women Composers
 - Mel Bonis (1858-1937) *Pastorale in G*
available through Free-scores.com
 - Alice Jordan (1916–2012) *All Hail the Power of Jesus’
Name* from “A Joyful Noise” available through WLE
 - Kristina Rizzotto (b.1989) *Toccata*
available through Wayne Leupold Editions
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Hymns

- Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871) Text: *Just as I am*
 - Amanda Husberg (1940-2021) Tune: LOVE'S LIGHT
 - Jane Manton Marshall (1924-2019) Tune: JACOB
 - *Voices Found: Women in the Church's Song*
available through Church Publishing
 - *Resounding Voices* available through The Hymn Society
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WOMAN
COMPOSER
SUNDAY

March 9, 2025

Special Announcement!

