

Clinic: Empowering Students through Repertoire Discovery and Diversity

presented by Dr. Sonja Harasim — reported by Faith Farr

In the second part of her Clinic presentation, Sonja Harasim gave us an excellent “starter list” of repertoire for all levels, so that our students are not playing music exclusively by white male composers, but are also exposed to women and non-white composers. Sonja emphasized that representation matters in pieces we consider for our developing musicians.

Level – Beginner/Intermediate Violin

Melodious Double Stops by Josephine Trott (American, 1874-1950). Sonja believes that young students should know of women composers, and Josephine Trott’s materials are excellent. Other works by Trott include: *Studies in Shifting for the Violin*; *The Puppet Show: Descriptive Piece for Violin and Piano, No. 1, Op. 5*; *Daily Scale Studies for the Violin*; *Two Tuneful Sketches: for violin (1st position)*; *28 Melodious Studies in the First Position for Violin*; *In a Spanish Garden: An Impression for Violin and Piano*

Scale/Repertoire Books by Barbara Barber including: *Solos For Young Violinists*, *Solos For Young Violists*, *Scales For Advanced Violinists*, *Scales for Advanced Violists*, *Twinkle Variations Festival Arrangement* and *Fingerboard Geography* (American, b. 19??)

Level – Intermediate Violin

The Deserted Garden for violin and piano by Florence Beatrice Price (American, 1887-1953) (a “teaching piece” for young violin students). Price wrote other works for violin and piano, chamber music, etc.

Violin Sonata No. 2 in A Major, mvt. II. Andantino – Allegro minore by Chevalier de Saint-Georges (French composer of African descent, 1745-1799). Saint-Georges wrote 3

violin sonatas and several violin concerti—available on imslp.org.

Level – Advanced Violin

3 Pieces for Violin and Piano: La Captive (for G-string), Berceuse, Mazurka by Amy Beach (American, 1867-1944). Other works include *Romance for Violin and Piano Op. 23*, a *Violin Sonata* and chamber music.

Suite in C Major, Op. 114, mvt II. Sous la ramée (Under the leafy boughs) by Mel (née Mélanie) Bonis (French, 1858-1937). Other works include: *Serenade*, a *Violin Sonata* and chamber music. Bonis was a classmate of Claude Debussy at Paris Conservatory—the only woman at the Paris Conservatory at the time; she received tuition from Cesar Franck.

Nocturne; Cortège; D’un matin printemps; all by Lili Boulanger (French, 1893-1918). She was the first woman to receive the Prix de Rome composition prize. She wrote wonderful works for violin and unfortunately died very young. Her older sister was the renowned composition teacher Nadia Boulanger.

Capriccio, Op. 18; Gavotte, Op. 9; both by Cécile Chaminade (French, 1857-1944). Chaminade’s music was loved by American audiences but the establishment thought her music was “too feminine.” She wrote a lot of salon style music, but also composed serious works including quite a few works for violin and piano.

Dumka for violin, viola and piano by Rebecca Clarke (British, 1886-1979). Rebecca Clarke is famous for her viola works, but also wrote several violin works.

Deep River by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (British, mixed race, 1875-1912) arr. for violin

and piano by Maud Powell (American, 1867–1920). Coleridge-Taylor wrote many other works for violin and piano, violin and orchestra—many available on imslp.org

Concerto per Violino e Orchestra, Op. 11 by Rodolfo Halffter (Spanish composer who moved to Mexico, 1900-1987). A fascinating piece that incorporates Spanish folk music into a Stravinsky-like, neo-classical idiom.

Notturmo; 3 Violin Sonatas; both by Emilie Mayer (German, 1812-1883). German Romantic style, complex rhythms reminiscent of Schumann and Brahms

Violin Concerto by Manuel Ponce (Mexican, 1882-1948). Mexican dance elements are infused into this eclectic, lyrical and joyful three-movement work.

Three Romances for violin and piano, Op. 22 by Clara Schumann (German, 1819-1896). A small oeuvre for violin that includes string/piano chamber music.

Suite for Violin and Piano: I. African dancer, II. Mother and Child, III. Gamin by William Grant Still (American, 1895-1978). Many other works for violin/piano arranged by friend, violinist Louis Kaufman, who recorded an all-Still album

Resources:

composerdiversity.com
boulangerinitiative.org
violinmusicbywomen.com
naxosmusiclibrary.com
wikipedia.com
youtube.com
imslp.org

Faith Farr has been editor of this magazine since 1996. †