



**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*

*I. Adagio (ca. 3.50min) II. Allegretto (3.55min) III. 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 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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*

**Boulay, Joséphine (1869–1925)**

*Trois Pièces pour Orgue* (1898)

*I. Andante II. Prélude III. Fugue*

Durand Editions Musicales

ISMN:

Andante 9790044028399

Prelude 9790044028405

Fugue 9790044028412

Andante available on IMSLP

[https://imslp.org/wiki/20 Pièces modernes pour orgue \(Various\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/20_Pièces_modernes_pour_orgue_(Various)) (accessed 26 July 2021)

Prélude and Fugue can be accessed through our e-archive, please contact

[societyofwomenorganists@gmail.com](mailto:societyofwomenorganists@gmail.com)

*These lovely pieces are all in C-sharp Minor and very suitable for the season of Lent.*

**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 Kansas 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](mailto: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)

Berlato 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 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](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.*

**Reece-Trapp, Ghislaine (b. 1992)**

*Fantasia on Sumer is icumen in* (2021)

RSCM Press

ISBN: 9780854023288

Grade 7 – 8

Concert - Postlude

Ca. 3:29min

*This piece was commissioned by The Berkshire Organists' Association to celebrate their Centenary. It begins slowly in a bagpipe style and then turns into a playful and energetic series upon the well-known medieval round the first manuscript of which was discovered in Reading Abbey.*

**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](mailto: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)*